

# All Hands HERALD

DEPARTMENT OF FIRE SERVICES • STOW, MASSACHUSETTS

January 2006

## Romney, Healey Present 2005 Firefighter of the Year Awards

Governor Mitt Romney and Lieutenant Governor Kerry Healey presented the 16th Annual Firefighter of the Year Awards on October 16, 2005 to firefighters from across the Commonwealth who have committed heroic acts of bravery over the past year.

Awards were presented to 32 individual firefighters and to five groups representing sixteen fire departments and the FEMA Region I Urban Search and Rescue Team. Seven Medals of Valor were presented to firefighters from Athol, Beverly, Boston and Holbrook.

"There's a reason that so many kids want to become firefighters when they grow up, it's because they want to join ranks with the

best and bravest," said Romney. "No matter what time of day, when the alarm sounds, firefighters rush toward danger not away from it,



Al Gray and James Gahan receive award from Gov. Romney

putting their own lives on the line to save others."

"Every minute of every day firefighters are on the frontlines, ready to protect us no matter

where we are," said Lieutenant Governor Kerry Healey. "Today's honorees show just what it means to care for our fellow citizens, and

it's comforting to know that their fellow first responders would commit similar acts of bravery if given the chance."

Individual Citations for Meritorious Conduct were presented to firefighters from the Boston, Chelmsford, Falmouth and Northampton Fire Departments. Group Citations for Meritorious Conduct were presented to firefighters from the Braintree, Boston, Burlington, Hyannis, Lexington, North Andover, and Yarmouth Fire Departments and the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Region I Urban Search and Rescue Team located in Beverly.

*continued on page 2*



## From the Fire Marshal

Stephen D. Coan

The Department of Fire Services will be starting the new year off with the appointment of Laurent McDonald as the new director of the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy. Mr. McDonald is leaving his position as fire chief in Dudley to join the DFS staff. Prior to that, he served in the U.S. Air Force for 21 years holding several positions in the Air Force Fire Service, most recently as Firefighter Certification and Training Manager for Headquarters Air Force Fire Protection at Tyndall Air Force Base in Florida. We thank Dick Farrar for his excellent service as acting director and know he will guide Mr. McDonald well.

## Training for Municipal Ticketing Program

This fall, the Department of Fire Services and the Department of Pubic Safety teamed up to present a series of informational seminars about the new law which gives non-criminal ticketing authority to state and local fire and building officials. Over 1,000 code enforcement officials attended the lectures over a six-week period. The ability to immediately cite and fine for code violations will allow code enforcement officials to avoid the lengthy and costly court process and to more quickly and efficiently obtain compliance.

## 2005 Firefighter of the Year

On October 28, 2005, the 16<sup>th</sup> annual *Firefighter of the Year* awards ceremony was held at Faneuil Hall in Boston. Governor Mitt Romney and Lieutenant

*continued on page 2*

*continued on page 2*

## FEATURES

2005 Firefighter of the Year Awards .....	1
Introducing the <b>All Hands Herald</b> .....	1
From the Fire Marshal .....	1
MFA Recruit Program Now 12 Weeks .....	3
News From CPSC .....	4
Fire Investigation News .....	6
Safety Alert For Hospitals: Cauterizing Tools Cause Fires .....	6
U.S. Department of Homeland Security Decentralizes First Responder Training .....	7
HazMat & Mass Decontamination Response Level Stickers Still Available .....	7
Did You Serve in the South? .....	7
Operation MassDecon Full Scale Field Exercise: WMD Response .....	8
Hazmat Evolution to Meet the Threats of a New Era .....	8
MFA Course Schedule .....	11
How to Install and Use Ad Aware for Spyware Removal .....	27
President Signs DHS FY '06 Appropriations Bill .....	29
Local Fire Department Receives Grant from DHS .....	31
MFIRS Corner .....	32
What is the True Cost of Firefighter Injuries? .....	33
Fire and Life Safety Education .....	34
Code Compliance & Enforcement Unit .....	35
Retrofit Sprinkler Law in Full Swing .....	35
Notification of Misuse of UL Mark .....	35
Licensing Exams .....	36
2006 Exam Schedule .....	36

Governor Kerry Healey presented awards to firefighters from across the Commonwealth who have committed heroic acts of bravery over the past year. This important annual event allows the public to recognize the sacrifices and contributions firefighters make to our communities.

**Nicole’s Law – CO Detectors**

I was pleased to stand by Governor Mitt Romney’s side in Plymouth on November 4, 2005 when he signed *Nicole’s Law* – requiring carbon monoxide detectors in residential occupancies. Seven-year old Nicole Garafalo of Plymouth died in a tragic carbon monoxide incident last winter. Members of her family, the Plymouth legislative delegation led by Sen. Therese Murray, and members of the fire service, who worked so hard to craft and pass this legislation were also part of the bill signing ceremony. The CO detection technology has certainly come of age and this concrete action will help to save lives. The law calls for the Board of Fire Prevention Regulations to promulgate regulations that will guide homeowners. The law itself will take effect March 31, 2006 where regulations do not require hard-wired detectors and January 1, 2007 where the regulations do.

**Firefighter of the Year Awards**

The Outstanding Community Service Award was presented to firefighters from Boston and Oxford. A Distinguished Service Award was presented posthumously to Boston Fire Lieutenant Richard Powers. In addition to dedicating his career to the Boston Fire Department, Powers participated in many Firefighter of the Year Award ceremonies as part of the Boston Fire Department’s A Cappella singers.

In addition, State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan presented the Fire Marshal’s award to James C. Gahan and Albert Gray. These two fathers lost their sons in The Station nightclub fire and are being honored for their work to promote changes in Massachusetts’ fire safety laws and regulations. They served on the *Secretary’s Task Force on Fire and Building Safety*, whose recommendations

All homeowners will be required to meet these deadlines. Fire departments will be required to conduct an inspection to make sure the CO detectors and smoke alarms are working and properly installed when people are selling or transferring homes.

**McNamara Bill – Death Benefits for Call/Volunteer Firefighters**

On Tuesday, November 8, 2005, Governor Romney traveled to Lancaster to sign legislation that provides a \$650,000 annuity to the family of fallen firefighter Martin H. McNamara and requires cities and towns to provide death benefits to the families of volunteer or part-time public safety officers who lose their lives in the line of duty. Martin McNamara died while fighting an apartment fire in Lancaster in 2003. His status as a call firefighter prevented his family from receiving survivors’ benefits. Communities may choose one of three options to provide benefits to survivors: they may purchase an annuity; pay for an insurance policy that provides a one-time benefit of \$500,000; or purchase an insurance policy that would cover the cost of an annuity to benefit the family of the deceased. It is comforting to families of call and volunteer firefighters

across the state to know that from this day forward, if a similar tragedy occurs, the community will protect the firefighter’s family.

**Fire Prevention Month**

October 2005 was another successful fire prevention month with fire department open houses across the state, many sponsored by Papa Gino’s Inc, and S.A.F.E. educators conducting school-based fire education. We were launched into the season by the *11<sup>th</sup> annual Fire and Life Safety Education Conference* in Boxborough. Winchester Capt. Rick Tustin was awarded the *2005 Fire and Life Safety Educator of the Year Award*.

**Concern for Increase in Winter Fire Deaths**

The Massachusetts fire service and I share a concern that fire deaths may spike this winter in the face of high heating costs. History has a way of repeating itself. In the winter of 2000 we experienced record cold and a jump in fire deaths. Heating caused most of the increased fatal fires including ten deaths in five space heater fires. Public fire education is imperative to keep 2005 from repeating 2000.

**Operation MassDecon: Full Scale Field Exercise**

The Department of Fire Services in conjunction with the Executive Office of Public Safety, the Department of Public Health (DPH), and the City of Worcester conducted a full-scale field exercise of a weapons of mass destruction scenario on Sept. 17, 2005 in Worcester. We have always known the value of planning and practicing disaster response, but the need to test and evaluate these plans was brought into sharp focus by Hurricane Katrina. A major goal of this exercise was to initiate a large-scale mass decontamination response, including all elements of the system that would be activated under this condition. This exercise was the first such multi-jurisdiction and multi-hospital exercise that activated a significant portion of the system.

**Rehab Unit**

I would like to remind incident commanders across the state that the DFS Rehab Unit stands ready to assist. Firefighting in winter months presents a number of challenges and hardships and rehab services can help our firefighters. We understand the important role rehab plays in the health and safety of all firefighters. ♦

led to changes in fire and building codes and the Massachusetts Fire Safety Act, passed in August of 2004.

For summaries of the service or heroic acts of each award recipient, please log onto our website at [www.mass.gov/dfs](http://www.mass.gov/dfs).

**Distinguished Service Award**

Lt. Richard L. Powers (*posthumous*)  
Boston Fire Department

**Community Service Award**

Lt. Irene Foley  
*Boston Fire Department*  
Captain Stephen Coleman  
*Oxford Fire Department*

**Meritorious Conduct Award - Individuals**

Lt. Donald Doenges  
*Boston Fire Department*  
Lt. Robert Moriarty  
*Boston Fire Department*

Firefighter John Kivlin  
*Chelmsford Fire Dept.*

Captain James Durkin and Firefighters Gary Ryan, Don Petterson, William Bennett, and Michael Young.  
*Chelmsford Fire Dept.*

Captain James R. Marshall, Firefighters Melvin Trott and Todd Taylor.  
*Falmouth Fire-Rescue Department*

Captain Arthur Raithel, Lieutenant Robert Cunha, Firefighters Donald Chisholm, and Dispatcher David Spinosa

*Lexington Fire Department, Group C*  
Capt. Jon Davine, Firefighter Scott Flynn and Firefighters/EMTs Jennifer Brin and David Neal  
*Northampton Fire Dept.*

**Meritorious Conduct Award - Groups**

Burlington Fire Dept.  
North Andover Fire Dept., Unit 3.  
Yarmouth and Hyannis Fire Depts.  
Braintree Fire Department, Group 1

Quincy Fire Department  
Boston Fire Department  
FEMA Region I Urban Search and Rescue Task Force

**Fire Marshals’ Special Appreciation Award**

James C. Gahan and Albert Gray

**Medal of Valor**

Firefighter Bruce G. Dubrule, Jr.  
*Athol Fire Department*  
Captain William Petrosino and Firefighters Todd Koen & Brian Miller  
*Beverly Fire Department*  
Fire Lieutenant Michael Mullen  
*Boston Fire Department*  
Fire Lieutenant Joseph R. Wilson  
*Boston Fire Department*  
Firefighter James Brown, Jr.  
*Holbrook Fire Department*  
Captain James B. Huska and Firefighters Robert J. George and Jason J. Viveiros  
*Sandwich Fire Department.* ♦



## 169<sup>th</sup> Recruit Class

State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan and Massachusetts Firefighting Academy Interim Director Richard Farrar are pleased to announce the

graduation of the 169<sup>th</sup> Class of the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy's fifty-five day Recruit Firefighting Program on October 7, 2005. Coan said, "This rigorous professional training provides our newest firefighters with the basic skills to perform their jobs effectively and safely."

The Massachusetts Firefighting Academy, a division of the Department of Fire Services, offers this program, tuition-free.

72 Graduates From 37 Fire Departments

The seventy-two graduates, one woman and seventy-one

men, represent the thirty-seven departments of: Burlington, Chelmsford, Duxbury, Fitchburg, Foxborough, Framingham, Franklin, Gardner, Hanson, Hyannis, Lawrence, Lexington, Lincoln, Littleton, Longmeadow, Ludlow, Malden, Mansfield, Marblehead, Marshfield, Methuen, Middleton, Nahant, Nantucket, North Andover, Northbridge, Norwell, Randolph, Reading, Revere, Saugus, Taunton, Watertown, West Springfield, Westborough, Winthrop and Yarmouth.

Guest Speaker William P. Blaich, retired Battalion Commander from the Fire Department of New York, addressed the recruits. His son-in-law was one of the graduates. ♦



Recruit Class #169

Photo by Sue Peltier

men, represent the thirty-seven departments of: Burlington, Chelmsford, Duxbury, Fitchburg, Foxborough, Framingham, Frank-

## DFS Incident Rehab Unit

The Department of Fire Services Special Operations Division now operates an Incident Rehab Unit to ensure firefighter safety at incidents throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The rehab function is extremely important to the safety of firefighters, and the Department of Fire Services encourages fire departments to utilize this valuable resource.

Fire departments may request the Rehab Unit to respond to an incident 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by calling the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency's dispatcher at 508-820-2000.

Being built on a 2005 GMC commercial cab and chassis with on-spot chains, this vehicle is capable of faster set-ups and greater mobility in all types of

New England weather. Since it can travel at highway speeds, the Rehab Unit can be of assistance to fire departments across the Commonwealth, depending on the duration of an incident.



The unit has 18 seats accessible through doors on either side in the front or a single rear entrance. Each seat has an individual diffuser to allow the person to select how much air they wish to have blown on them. The unit is stocked with light refreshments,

EMS equipment, and all needed components to set up a proper rehab. Appliances in the unit include 4 small ice machines, 2 refrigerators, and 4 video monitors. The unit also provides a space where firefighters can be debriefed when operating at a major or long-term incident.

The unit is self sufficient with a 20 KW diesel generator, 50 gallons of potable water for misting units and ice machines, under-frame stabilizers, 3000 watt Night Scan, 2 misting rings interior and 2 misting units pre-plumbed on the exterior. The overall dimensions of the unit are: Length 40'2"; Wheel Base 280"; Width 102"; Height 13' 2" and Weight: CVW 23,000

A virtual tour of the Rehab Unit is available at [http://www.mass.gov/dfs/er/sp\\_operations/appr\\_irt.htm](http://www.mass.gov/dfs/er/sp_operations/appr_irt.htm). ♦

## MFA Recruit Program Now 12 Weeks

The Massachusetts Fire Training Council and the Department of Fire Services will extend the current 11-week Massachusetts Firefighting Academy training program to a 12-week program starting January 9, 2006. The purpose of this additional week is to ensure that recruits are trained and tested successfully to the current NFPA Firefighter II standard.

The additional time will include: training in incident command, as required by the new National Incident Command System (NIMS) policy; the reestablished full gas program, including lectures; the State Police bomb safety program; training on Weapons of Mass Destruction, and Mass. Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) lectures.

The Training Council and DFS believe this new program will result in a physically strong, fully trained firefighter with up-to-date training on the most current subjects who is ready to be a productive member of the department. The MFA is truly excited to be able to offer this enhanced program.

For planning purposes, the MFA 2006 recruit training schedule is as follows:

### Class 171

9 January 2006 to  
31 March 2006

### Class 172

3 April 2006 to  
23 June 2006

### Class 173

10 July 2006 to  
29 September 2006

### Class 174

2 Oct. 2006 to  
22 Dec. 2006. ♦

# News From CPSC

The following are excerpts from press releases issued by the U.S. Consumer Products Safety Commission (CPSC) regarding products recalled for fired or burn hazards. Consumers should immediately stop using any of the se products and contact the U.S. Consumer Products Safety Commission or the manufacturer for instructions on how to proceed. The web address is: [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov)

## Releases

<b>Cigarette Lighters</b>	<i>4/6/2005</i>	<i>05-149</i>
CPSC approves 1st step toward mandatory standard for cigarette lighters. <a href="http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml05/05149.html">http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml05/05149.html</a>		
<b>Soap Making Kit</b>	<i>6/27/2005</i>	<i>05-208</i>
Rose art industries to pay \$300,000 penalty for failing to report hazard w/ soap making kit. <a href="http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml05/05208.html">http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml05/05208.html</a>		
<b>Post Hurricane Survival</b>	<i>7/8/2005</i>	<i>05-223</i>
CPSC Warns of post-storm hazards from portable generators, candles & wet appliances <a href="http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml05/05223.html">http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml05/05223.html</a> ♦		

## Recalls

<b>June 21, 2005 - 05-202</b> <a href="http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml05/05202.html">http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml05/05202.html</a> DeWalt Industrial Tool Company: DeWalt D55143 3-gallon Hand-carry Oil Free Air Compressor Due to a wiring insulation defect, the unit may pose a possible shock hazard.
<b>August 23, 2005 - 05-249</b> <a href="http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml05/05249.html">http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml05/05249.html</a> Lamplight Farms, Inc.: Tiki Bamboo Torches & Replacement Canisters The surface coating of some flame guards on these bamboo torches & replacement canisters can absorb fuel & ignite.
<b>March 23, 2005 - 05-139</b> <a href="http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml05/05139.html">http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml05/05139.html</a> Thomson Inc.: Portable DVD Play Batteries The battery can overheat & explode while recharging, posing a burn & fire hazard.
<b>June 8, 2005 - 05-187</b> <a href="http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml05/05187.html">http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml05/05187.html</a> Mintek Digital, Inc.: Portable DVD Player Battery Packs The battery can overheat & explode while recharging, posing a burn & fire hazard.
<b>June 22, 2005 - 05-204</b> <a href="http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml05/05204.html">http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml05/05204.html</a> Battery-Biz, Inc.: Hi-Capacity Rechargeable Notebook Computer Batteries An internal short can cause the battery cells to overheat, posing a fire hazard.
<b>October 6, 2005 - 06-003</b> <a href="http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml06/06003.html">http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml06/06003.html</a> Wal-Mart Stores Inc.: Holiday Time Candle Gift Sets The decorative covering on the candles can ignite, posing a fire & burn hazard.
<b>April 20, 2005 - 05-159</b> <a href="http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml05/05159.html">http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml05/05159.html</a> Global Gift Industries: Martha Stewart Everyday “Sunny Meadow” 4-Piece Sanded Votive Candle Set These candles have a high flame, posing a risk of burn injuries.

<b>May 31, 2005 - 05-183</b> <a href="http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml05/05183.html">http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml05/05183.html</a> Home Interiors & Gifts, Inc.: Home Interiors Fundraising Candle Tin Series The candle flames could flare up out of the tin container during use, posing a fire & burn hazard.
<b>June 24, 2005 - 05-207</b> <a href="http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml05/05207.html">http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml05/05207.html</a> Target Corp.: Birch & Bark Candles The birch & bark surrounding the candles can ignite, posing a fire & burn hazard.
<b>July 1, 2005 - 05-215</b> <a href="http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml05/05215.html">http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml05/05215.html</a> Two’s Company Inc.: Sea Urchin Shell Candles The candles can burn at an excessive height or cause the outer shell to catch fire, posing a potential fire & burn hazard.
<b>June 2, 2005 - 05-185</b> <a href="http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml05/05185.html">http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml05/05185.html</a> Whirlpool: KitchenAid Coffeemakers An internal electrical component of the coffeemaker can overheat & ignite, posing a fire hazard.
<b>June 10, 2005 - 05-189</b> <a href="http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml05/05189.html">http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml05/05189.html</a> Bunn-O-Matic Corp.: Bunn Home Coffeemakers The coffeemaker’s plastic pour-in bowl & lid can melt or ignite due to an electrical failure, posing a burn & fire risk.
<b>August 19, 2005 - 05-246</b> <a href="http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml05/05246.html">http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml05/05246.html</a> West Bend Housewares LLC.: 10-Cup Coffeemaker Carafes & Replacement Carafes The carafe handle can unexpectedly loosen or break, resulting in the carafe falling. This can cause burn injuries from hot coffee.
<b>May 20, 2005 - 05-179</b> <a href="http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml05/05179.html">http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml05/05179.html</a> Apple Computer, Inc.: Rechargeable Batteries for Ibook G4 & Powerbook G4 computers An internal short can cause the battery cells to overheat, posing a fire hazard
<b>February 25, 2005 - 05-123</b> <a href="http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml05/05123.html">http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml05/05123.html</a> Whirlpool: Whirlpool & Kenmore Dishwashers An electrical defect poses a risk of the motor overheating & possibly catching fire.
<b>September 16, 2005 - 05-274</b> <a href="http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml05/05274.html">http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml05/05274.html</a> Robertshaw Controls Co.: Robertshaw R110 Series Gas Control Valves Screws on some water heater valves could break. If this happens, gas could leak from the valve, which poses a risk of gas explosion & fire
<b>April 27, 2005 - 05-162</b> <a href="http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml05/05162.html">http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml05/05162.html</a> Heat & Glo: HEAT-N-GLO Gem 36 or 42 Gas Fireplaces Gas in the fireplace can accumulate prior to burner ignition. When ignition takes place, it can cause the glass window to shatter & create a risk of burns or lacerations from broken glass.
<b>August 2, 2005 - 05-238</b> <a href="http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml05/05238.html">http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml05/05238.html</a> DESA Heating Products : “Vanguard” & “FMI” Compact Fireplaces The burner tube connection to the gas valve can leak gas when the main burner is on. The leaking gas can ignite, causing a minor flare-up, which could cause nearby combustibles to ignite.



**September 8, 2005 - 05-262**  
<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml05/05262.html>  
Nexgrill Industries, Inc.: Charmglow Gas Grills  
The hose connecting the propane tank w/the manifold can run up too close to the firebox. The heat from the firebox can damage the hose, causing it to leak gas. The release of gas creates a fire risk.

**September 8, 2005 - 05-261**  
<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml05/05261.html>  
The Coleman Co. & TPA Metals & Machinery of China: Coleman Gas Grills & Patio Heaters  
The regulators of these products can leak propane when the propane cylinder is turned on & the product is not in use. This can pose a fire or explosion hazard.

**June 8, 2005 - 05-158**  
<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml05/05188.html>  
Shandaiwa Inc.: Shindaiwa Gas-Powered Professional Hedge Trimmers  
The heat from the hedge trimmer’s muffler can damage the fuel tank, cause a fuel leak and create a fire hazard.

**March 28, 2005 - 05-143**  
<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml05/05143.html>  
Nature’s Finest: Nature’s Finest Gel Candles  
The gel used in these candles can catch fire, creating a high flame, resulting in nearby combustibles catching fire & burns.

**September 15, 2005 - 05-272**  
<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml05/05272.html>  
Pier 1 Imports: Glass Candle Holders  
The candle holder can unexpectedly break.

**June 2, 2005 - 05-186**  
<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml05/05186.html>  
Sally Beauty Company Inc.: GVP Ceramic Hair Straightening Irons  
The heated ceramic plates on these irons can loosen & detach during use, posing a risk of burn injuries.

**July 19, 2005 - 05-227**  
<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml05/05227.html>  
Lamplight Farms, Inc.: Tiki Cone Metal Torch  
The head & cover of these torches can come loose or be dislodged during use, allowing torch fuel to spill.

**June 13, 2005 - 05-191**  
<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml05/05191.html>  
Aristo Home & Garden: “Fire Stick” Multi-purpose Lighters  
The lighters fail to meet federal safety standards because they lack child-resistant mechanisms.

**May 31, 2005 - 05-184**  
<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml05/05184.html>  
Hitachi Cable Manchester, Inc.: 25- & 50-Pair Category 5 & 5e, CMP Cables  
The cables do not meet the fire resistance standards for cable used in plenum applications.

**March 31, 2005 - 05-145**  
<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml05/05145.html>  
Mr. Heater, Inc.: Mr. Heater “Big Buddy” & “Tough Buddy” portable propane heaters  
The valve on the propane heaters can leak, posing a fire hazard if an ignition source is present.

**April 5, 2005 - 05-148**  
<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml05/05148.html>  
DESA Heating Products & Scheu Manufacturing Co.: “All-Pro”, “Reddy Heater” & “Master” Infrared Propane Heaters  
The plastic ring on the heater’s regulator can crack, causing gas to leak out if the propane tank and heater regulator are turned on. This can create a fire hazard if an ignition source is present.

**March 9, 2005 - 05-130**  
<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml05/05130.html>  
JVC: Rear-Projection TVs  
An internal electrical connection can cause arcing posing a fire risk.

**June 29, 2005 - 05-213**  
<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml05/05213.html>  
LG Electronics Inc.: LG & Kenmore Elite Trio 3-Door Refrigerators  
A faulty component in the condenser fan can short circuit. This can cause the fan motor to overheat, posing a potential fire hazard.

**July 29, 2005 - 05-236**  
<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml05/05236.html>  
The Holmes Group: Rival Slow Cooker  
The handles on the base of the slow cookers can break, posing a risk of burns from the hot contents spilling onto consumers.

**May 18, 2005 - 05-176**  
<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml05/05176.html>  
Cascade Designs, Inc.: Superfuel Liquid Fuel  
A defect in the can’s seam & an insufficiently applied fuel cap can cause the can to leak fuel posing a fire hazard.

**April 21, 2005 - 05-161**  
<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml05/05161.html>  
Sharp Electronics, Corp.: Sharp 27” CRT Televisions  
Power button can break allowing objects to be inserted through the opening, posing a fire hazard.

**March 24, 2005 - 05-142**  
<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml05/05140.html>  
Whirlpool: KitchenAid ProLine Toasters  
An interruption of power to the toaster can cause the heating elements to unexpectedly self-start & could ignite any flammable items left on top of the unit, posing a fire hazard.

**August 11, 2005 - 05-240**  
<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml05/05240.html>  
The Holmes Group: Holmes & Bionare Tower Heater Fans  
The power cord on the units can fray or sever causing the fan to stop working & overheat, posing a fire hazard.

**September 27, 2005 - 05-279**  
<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml05/05279.html>  
W.C. Wood Company Inc.: Automatic Defrost Upright Freezers & All-Refrigerators  
The defrost heater coil can become exposed inside the units, which poses a shock hazard. In some cases the exposed heater wire can also melt or burn the unit’s interior plastic food liner.

**April 14, 2005 - 05-156**      <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml05/05156.html>  
Hoover Co.: Hoover Self-Propelled Upright Vacuum Cleaners  
The on-off switches that can overheat the handle and toolholder areas of the vacuum, resulting in a fire hazard.

**June 20, 2005 - 05-200**  
<http://www.midwestofcannonfalls.com>  
Midwest Cannon Falls: Serenity Votive Candles  
The candle’s wax can catch fire, causing a high flame. This can cause nearby combustibles to catch fire.

**October 6, 2005 - 06-002**      <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml06/06002.html>  
A.O. Smith Water Products Co.: 75-Gallon Propane Gas Water Heaters  
The water heaters can accumulate soot on the burners, posing a fire hazard.

**June 29, 2005 - 05-210**      <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml05/05210.html>  
CSK Auto Inc.: Aqua Water Scooters  
Hydrogen gas can build up in the battery compartment & cause the battery cover & the battery package to forcefully expel from the product.

March 11, 2005 - 05-135

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml05/05135.html>

Spin Rite LP: Bernat "Fur Out" Yarn  
Garments constructed of "Fur Out" yarn are dangerously flammable when exposed to flame posing a burn risk. ♦

## Winchendon Fire Started by Recalled Product

On Tuesday, December 6, 2005, at 10:39 a.m., the Winchendon Fire Department received a call for a fire at an assisted living residence. The fire occurred in one of the bedrooms and was caused by a portable electric waterless vaporizer. Damages were confined to the vaporizer and a nearby mattress.

On November 17, 2005 the CPSC issued Release #06-032, calling for the immediate recall of these Vapor-Eze Waterless Vaporizers. They were sold at discount department and drug stores, including Wal-Mart from June through September 2005. For the full recall notice go to [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov). ♦



## All Hands Herald

Continued from Page 1

in dealing with the fire service issues which confront all levels of the fire service.

We hope that you enjoy our new look and feel and we encourage you to let us know how you like the **All Hands Herald** and what we can do to make it even more useful to you – our dedicated fire service members and customers. If you have suggestions, ideas, questions or want to make a contribution to the **All Hands Herald**, contact Jennifer Mieth at 978-567- 3381 or Donna Nelson at 978-567-3149. [Jennifer.Mieth@state.ma.us](mailto:Jennifer.Mieth@state.ma.us) or [Donna.Nelson@state.ma.us](mailto:Donna.Nelson@state.ma.us) ♦

# FIRE INVESTIGATION NEWS

## Safety Alert For Hospitals: Cauterizing Tools Cause Fires

Massachusetts State Police Investigators assigned to the Office of State Fire Marshal working in conjunction with local fire investigators have been made aware of a series of fires occurring in hospitals as a result of the improper disposal of

a temperature sufficient to ignite any combustible materials (trash). (Weinstein Safety Alert May 17<sup>th</sup> 2005)

It is imperative to keep the safety cap for each disposable electrocautery unit used during proce-

rupts the heating filament circuit so that it can not be activated) and then recapping the device (which prevents the on button from being activated).

2. Provide intensive and more "hands-on" type of fire safety for operating room staff.
3. Provide additional training to all hospital staff about the importance of pulling the alarm station at the first sign of smoke/fire.
4. Purchase fire-rated sharps disposal containers, which will be used exclusively for these devices. (Weinstein June 16<sup>th</sup> 2005)

\*This office would like to thank Steve Weinstein Safety Manager Emerson Hospital, Concord, MA for his research into these cordless disposable battery powered electrocautery devices and the accompanying safety tips. ♦



battery powered cauterizing tools.

Investigators have learned these fires are occurring when these units are discarded without the proper safety cover in place over the tip and activation switch. The weight of additional refuse placed on top of the unprotected unit activates the unit's ON switch, causing the cautery tip to heat to

dures and replace the cap before disposing of the unit.

Four steps to preventing these fires:

1. Retrain surgeons and other operating room staff about the proper disposal procedures for the cordless electrocautery device. This includes breaking the tip of the device (this inter-

## Arrest Made in Cambridge Fatal Fire and Homicide

On Saturday August 8, 2005 at approximately 12:15 p.m. the Cambridge Fire Department responded to an alarm for a structure fire at 17 Warren St. Upon arrival firefighters found a multi-unit dwelling with heavy fire showing from the second floor. The fire quickly rose to the level of two alarms. After the heavy fire was knocked down, firefighters discovered two victims on the third floor that had been unable to escape the inferno. The first victim was a 76-year old female and the second her 8-year old granddaughter. A Cambridge firefighter was also injured and hospitalized after being electrically shocked while engaged in fire suppression.

On Saturday at 1:15 p.m. the services of State Police troopers assigned to the Officer of the State Fire Marshal were called to assist the Cambridge Fire Investigation Unit. Sgt. Paul Zipper, Tpr. James Welch and Tpr. Donald Bossi

with his AK-9 Tubby responded to the scene. Also responding were Detectives from the Cambridge Police Department, Investigators from the Cambridge Fire Department's Fire Investigation Unit, Massachusetts State Police

completed by the joint investigation effort, it was determined that the fire had been deliberately set on the second floor landing, making the deaths of two innocent civilians, two homicides.

For the next five days approximately fourteen investigators from the above-mentioned units and departments worked tirelessly to determine a suspect. The suspect was a 46-year old adult male who was an occupant of the building. Investigators applied for and were granted a search warrant, which resulted in the collection of key evidence. As a result of this exceptional police work done by all involved this suspect was placed under arrest only five days after the incident. He has been charged with, one count of burning a dwelling house, one count of causing injury to a firefighter, and two counts of second-degree murder. The defendant currently awaits trial. ♦

***"the fire had been deliberately set..., making the deaths of two innocent civilians, two homicides"***

assigned to the Middlesex District Attorney's Office and Crime Scene Services.

A lengthy investigation ensued and additional assistance was received from Tpr. Paul Horgan and Tpr. Robert O'Neill of the FIU, the State Police Air Wing and Accident Reconstruction Unit, as well as chemists for forensic evidence collection to complete this joint investigation effort. When the origin and cause investigation was



# U.S. Department of Homeland Security Decentralizes First Responder Training

In late October, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced that it will begin implementing a new Cooperative Training Outreach Program (CO-OP) designed to expand first responder preparedness training across the country by permitting the states to identify and approve institutions within their states, territories or tribal entities that can adopt and deliver the department’s standardized training courses.

“The new CO-OP Program will achieve the President’s objective to expand our current training system so that state and local instructors can teach first responder training courses at thousands of community colleges, public safety academies, state and private universities and other facilities,” said Matt A. Mayer, Acting Executive Director of the Office of State and Local Government Coordination and Preparedness. “The CO-OP Program will add to the preparedness of the nation by making courses already certified by the DHS Office of State and Local Government Coordination and Preparedness (SLGCP) more

available throughout participating states.”

The CO-OP Training Program will be implemented in three phases throughout Fiscal Year 2006. During the first phase, the *state administrative agencies* (SAA) will be able to identify and approve state institutions that can deliver SLGCP’s fully developed curricula for first responder training courses.

The SAAs will designate a *master trainer* for each identified academy or state institution that will be responsible for the instructor’s credentials and for monitoring and maintaining the quality of training delivered at the institutions.

During the second phase of the CO-OP Program, the Homeland Security’s Office of State and Local Government Coordination and Preparedness will provide the SAA and training points of contact with an electronic toolkit that will list the first responder training courses, the full course curriculum, and the training support materials needed to deliver the DHS certified training through the SAA-approved institutions such

as community colleges, public safety academies, and state universities.

The CO-OP Program will become institutionalized during the third phase of the program, as state sponsored, certified instructors begin delivering an increased number of first responder training courses.

“The CO-OP Program will be based on state assessments that clearly define specific training needs at all levels of emergency response to prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from acts of terrorism,” said Matt A. Mayer. “The scope of the challenge is daunting, with the training audience estimated to be in excess of 7 million responders from 10 emergency response disciplines and the private sector.”

The CO-OP Program will enable the State Administrative Agencies to better manage and track terrorism preparedness training within their states, territories, or tribal entities based on their individual requirements and homeland security strategies ♦.

# Did You Serve in the South?

*Be Aware of Post Deployment Issues*  
First responders are highly stress resistant and resilient individuals, yet they can be more at risk for long-term effects from deployment to disasters. Most of these individuals will not know immediately after the event that they have been affected. While many first responders support Critical Incident Stress Management, or CISM, activities for “other” people, many deployed responders may believe that they are fine and don’t need CISM support.

In the days, weeks and even months following deployment to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, first responders may find that they could have benefited from CISM services offered upon return. Please be aware that delayed reactions most commonly occur weeks after returning to normal routines. Cumulative reactions may be of concern for those who are or will be involved in multiple deployments. As time from exposure to the incident increases, symptoms may appear which should not be ignored. Otherwise, neglecting such symptoms can jeopardize future deployments both at home and at other scenes.

Some common symptoms of critical stress may include: headaches, nightmares, flashbacks, irritability, distance from loved ones, increased self-medication (i.e. alcohol), and declining work performance.

If you or someone close to you is experiencing any of these common reactions, please contact the Department of Fire Services Statewide Peer Assistance Network at the following phone numbers:

- PFFM Member Assistance Program 978-963-3384 or 617-429-8243
- Massachusetts Corp of Fire Chaplains 413-567- 3357
- On-Site Academy 978-632-3518
- Massachusetts Call/Volunteer Firefighters Association 508-963-3694
- S.M.A.R.T. 978-445-4679 ♦

# HazMat & Mass Decontamination Response Level Stickers Still Available

The 2005 Mass Decontamination Summit revealed that activation methods and response plans for Hazmat and Mass Decontamination are not well known among fire department Command and Company Officers throughout Massachusetts fire departments. While Massachusetts has an unprecedented capability between these two systems, they cannot be of value unless incident commanders can rapidly and accurately activate them.

Last year, activation and response plans for mass decontamination were issued to every fire department and every district control center. Included with these plans was a CD-ROM containing a self-

running, narrated Powerpoint® presentation that was intended for fire department communications operators. DFS encourages fire departments to run this 30 – minute training program for all command and company officers and to be certain that all commu-

The information contained on the sticker describes the response increments for both hazmat teams and for mass decontamination. For both responses, the sticker lists response levels, examples of the size or type of incident requiring each level, and a listing of

what the response is for each level.

Fire departments may have as many as needed in order to affix them to all response

vehicles and other key locations. Order forms for these stickers were sent to all fire departments in July. If fire departments did not receive the notice, or need stickers, please contact the DFS Hazmat Response Division at 978-567-3150. ♦

Massachusetts Chemical/Radiological/Biological Incident Response Activation Levels			
State/District Hazmat Team			State Hazmat Response
Tier	Response	Situation	
1	TOMs Unit (ORU Optional) (5 Techs)	Hazard & Risk Assessment or Suspicious Substance Investigation	Tier 3
2	TOMs Unit & ORU (1/2 Team)	Short Term Entry Operation	
3	TOMs Unit & ORU (s) (Full Team)	Long Term and/or Immediate Life Safety Risk	Tier 3
4	Multi-Team	Major Release or Extended Operation	
5	Full Hazmat System, plus Bomb Squad and CST activated	WMD or Mass Casualty	Tier 5

Statewide Mass Decontamination Response System			
Level	Response	Situation	State Hazmat Response
Mass Decon A	I/C requests specific MDUs (deployment not pre-planned)	Limited/controlled event.	Tier 3
Mass Decon B	1-2 District MDUs to Scene & MDUs to local hospitals	Moderate: single facility limited occupancy (office building)	Tier 3
Mass Decon C	5 - 7 MDUs to scene & hospitals in effected & surrounding fire districts covered by MDUs	Major: Shopping Mall, Public Arena or multiple buildings	Tier 5
Mass Decon D	Up to 17 District MDUs to scene. Most hospitals in the state covered by MDUs	Extreme: Wide geographic area or major event	Tier 5

nications personnel have seen it as well.

To further aid incident commanders in activating these systems, DFS has developed a Hazmat/ Mass Decon Response sticker to be affixed inside apparatus and other readily visible locations.

# Operation MassDecon Full Scale Field Exercise: WMD Response

The Department of Fire Services in conjunction with the Executive Office of Public Safety (EOPS), the Department of Public Health (DPH), and the City of Worcester conducted a full-scale field exercise of a weapons of mass destruction scenario on September 17, 2005 at Green Hill Park in Worcester. State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan said, "Massachusetts has always known the value of planning and practicing disaster response and the value of testing and evaluating our plans has been brought into sharp focus by Hurricane Katrina."

A major focus of this exercise was to initiate a large-scale mass decontamination response, including all elements of the system that would be activated under this condition. This exercise was the first such multi-jurisdiction and multi-hospital exercise that activated a significant portion of the system. A total of 16 communities and 14 hospitals participated in this exercise. Funding for this full-scale field exercise was provided by the EOPS, utilizing Homeland Security exercise grants and the DPH utilizing Health Resources and Services Administration funding.

DPH Associate Commissioner Nancy Ridley said, "We need to ensure that the hospitals, doctors and nurses can continue to treat patients during an emergency such as this and the rapid deployment of mass decontamination units to protect local hospitals is critical to making sure that happens."

Fire Chief Gerard Dio said, "Worcester is the second largest metropolitan area in the Commonwealth and this exercise will ensure that all of the agencies that would be mobilized in such an incident are ready to respond and act under a unified command system that protects our citizens, first responders and health professionals."

Ms. Ridley added, "We believe this is a significant opportunity for creating synergy between the use of federal funds from the Depart-

ment of Homeland Security and the Department of Health and Human Services to exercise a unique partnership for mass decontamination and mass casualty response that has been in place between fire departments and hospitals for the past two years."

The participants in the exercise were: Worcester Fire Department, Worcester Police Department, Worcester Central Medical Emergency Dispatch (CMED), Massachusetts DFS Special Operations, Massachusetts DFS Hazmat Districts 1, 3 & 4, Mass State Police Bomb Squad, MA State Police Crime Lab, Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency, FBI Boston Hazmat Team/Evidence Recovery/Bomb Squad, Massachusetts Department of Public Health, U-Mass Medical Emergency Medical Service (EMS), Saint Vincent Hospital at Worcester Medical Center, U-Mass Memorial Medical Center, U-Mass University Campus, Clinton Hospital, Health Alliance Leominster Hospital, Emerson Hospital, Marlborough Hospital, Mary Lane Hospital, Metro-West Framingham Hospital, Milford-Whitinsville Hospital, Harrington Hospital, Hubbard Regional Hospital, Heywood Hospital, Metro-West Natick Hospital, Amherst Fire Department, Boxborough Fire Department, Clinton Fire Department, Concord Fire Department, Framingham Fire Department, Gardner Fire Department, Holden Fire Department, Leominster Fire Department, Marlborough Fire Department, Milford Fire Department, Natick Fire Department, Northbridge Fire Department, Rutland Fire Department, Southbridge Fire Department and Ware Fire Department.

For online information: <http://web.pcgus.com/massdecon> ♦

# Hazmat Evolution to Meet the Threats of a New Era

## Part 1

In April 3, 1980, a rail yard accident in Somerville, Massachusetts, released phosphorus trichloride injuring civilians and firefighters and bringing about, in its aftermath, aggressive efforts to develop hazmat teams in Massachusetts. In 1984, the accidental release of methyl isocyanate in Bhopal, India caused massive injuries and fatalities and led to the national development of a specialized response standard for hazardous materials through federal legislation known as the Superfund Amendments and Re-Authorization Act. Hazmat teams throughout the country were developed and were tasked exclusively, at this period, with response to industrial and transportation emergencies. Over a ten-year period, these response capabilities underwent little change and saw slow technological advancement.

On March 20, 1995 the Tokyo Subway sarin attack occurred killing nearly a dozen people and incapacitating or injuring approximately 5000 others. This incident caused national concern of similar incidents in the U.S. and initiated the development of the domestic preparedness efforts aimed at chemical, radiological, biological and nuclear terrorism. Over the past ten years, the Hazardous Materials Response Division of the Department of Fire Services has increasingly dedicated resources to this developing mission. While maintaining a focus and predominance of response volume involving industry and transportation, homeland security has become a priority mission for the division.

In addition to striving for continual improvement in its internal capabilities, the hazmat division has taken on a broader role with

respect to the development of strategies for homeland security that begin with the local fire department, and crossed into other disciplines such as public health and law enforcement. Simultaneously, the new threats have led to close working relationships with the military, federal law enforcement and an ever widening circle of partners, especially public health.

Throughout the country, the post September 11 priority on homeland security and preparedness has led to a host of new responders and to significantly increased attention to issues that traditionally have been ignored by all but the fire service. In Massachusetts, the presence of a well-developed and experienced hazardous materials response system has



allowed greater coordination and focus on this growth. There is no doubt that the hazardous materials response teams of the Massachusetts fire service will remain the predominant, specialized, response element in the event of a terrorist incident involving chemicals, radiological materials, or the overt release of biological agents.

Recent world and national events has created a rapidly changing environment for hazardous materials response. New threats, new methods and new technologies have greatly altered the program from its original capabilities and methods. This is the first in a three-part series of articles that will outline the concepts of op-

Continued on Page 9



erations developed in hazmat to confront these new challenges along with the improved capabilities. This series is intended to review the developments of the past several years and provide a better understanding of each. While cursory in detail, the reader is encouraged to contact the division for specifics regarding any of the topics to be covered.

## Part 2

Any hazardous material, released with the purpose of causing harm, is a chemical weapon. The need for casualty decontamination has been largely documented and required since the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986. However, the Aum Shinrikyo sect attack on the Tokyo subway system in 1995 brought new concern and urgency to our ability to manage the rescue, decontamination and treatment of chemically contaminated victims.

The following is part two of a three-part series of articles on the development of capabilities within the DFS Hazardous Materials Response Division to meet the threats and challenges of homeland security. Part two focuses upon the response to a chemical release and the management of mass contamination victims.

Following a perceived threat against the state in 1997, the Executive Office of Public Safety tasked the Department of Fire Services to develop a capability and provided additional funds to aid the department in its development and in acquisition of chemical weapons detection for the hazmat teams in 1998. The initial approach led to the development of "mass decontamination systems" that were issued to teams and carried on hazmat operational response units.

### Self-Extracating Victims

In concept, hazmat teams would respond and conduct victim decontamination under the existing

response structure. However an internal review of this approach conducted in the spring of 2000 revealed critical flaws in the assumptions made. An analysis of the probable sequence of a



chemical attack showed that initial decontamination needed to be addressed within minutes, that there were not sufficient hazmat resources to respond to the incident and simultaneously protect critical infrastructure and that the greatest impact upon survival would be made by addressing

those who self-extricate. These conclusions were based upon the Tokyo experience and upon a variety of other types of disasters that showed that most survivors find their way out of the disaster and to hospitals on their own.

Victims in a chemical release are affected by the actual dose taken internally or that reacts with or is absorbed by the skin and membranes externally. It can be thought of in terms exactly like a medication, the longer the exposure and/or higher the dose, the greater the effect. Therefore those who are unable to self extricate and have likely received a toxic dose, will continue to receive doses of the chemical until extricated. In any chemical release with high lethality, their survival is unlikely unless the inability to self extricate was due to physical entrapment, not toxicity. In contrast, those who self-extricate have a better chance of survival as they have not reached the critical toxic level and can be quickly decontaminated so as to stop the continuing exposure. Fire fighters without special equipment or technician level training can accomplish this level of mass decontamination.

### RAM Decon

From this evaluation, the Hazmat Division in conjunction with the Fire Academy utilized information from the U.S. Army Soldiers Bio-

logical and Chemical Command (SBCCOM) to develop a program called Rapid Access Mass Decontamination (RAM Decon). The intent of RAM Decon in the hazmat strategy was that every fire department in the Commonwealth could be trained to utilize this method as an emergency measure to gain control of a mass contamination event and to save the lives of contaminated victims who could self extricate.

To date, however, only about 90 fire departments have taken advantage of RAM decon training through the Fire Academy<sup>1</sup>. In consideration of the lack of widespread implementation, hazmat technicians have been trained in the procedure so that the first technician on-scene at an emergency can lead its implementation.

### MDUS

Following the same analysis, the need for a broader based decontamination system was identified. As with initial victim decontamination, secondary victim decontamination would require a relatively rapid set-up and there could be a conflict over the priority use of hazmat teams between victim decontamination and other functions such as agent identifica-

tion, rescue and mitigation. This was the basis for development of the fire district decontamination companies of the Massachusetts Statewide Mass Decontamination System.

The 17 district units of the statewide mass decontamination system in fifteen fire districts provide a greater unit density and, generally, shorter response distance to

communities than do the hazmat teams. This, in addition to decontamination units being assigned to full time staffed fire departments, should result in a faster response time and the ability to a mass a greater total victim decontamination capacity. Finally, with a sole dedicated mission, the existence of specific decontamination companies allows hazmat to focus upon agent identification, rescue and mitigation.

### Protect Hospitals

The final conclusion of the review was that all of the on-scene efforts are highly unlikely to be completely successful in containing contaminated victims. Acceptance of this fact brought with it the realization that hospitals needed to be protected as a high priority. The priority is based in the potential impact upon the overall emergency by the loss of multiple acute care hospitals in the face of a mass casualty event. Such losses from contamination would have the dual effect creating multiple secondary incidents and severely impeding the ability to clear casualties from the scene. Hence the second aspect



of the Statewide Decontamination System was developed to protect hospitals and thereby prevent negative impacts upon emergency operations.

A side benefit to this analysis was the development of an overall strategy that has directed hazmat team capabilities and recommendations for local capabilities. Keeping firefighter safety as a



primary objective has meant weighing the risk of actual chemical weapon use against the risk to firefighters of our response operations. The analysis revealed that the inverse of the rule “risk a little to save a little, risk a lot to save a lot” held true. RAM Decon posed very low risk to firefighters and was likely to save the greatest number of victims. Mass decontamination units pose a slightly higher risk since fire fighters, trained to the first responder operational level, will have direct contact with potentially contaminated victims. This risk is diminished by their use of proper personal protective equipment (PPE) and is further reduced if victims have first undergone RAM decon in accordance with the plan and their training. At the far opposite end of the spectrum, rescues that required a hazmat team would be highly risky and likely to result in saving fewer lives. This premise led to a strategy of working from both ends toward the middle in both risk and depth into the incident. Thus the greatest good, by volume, can be accomplished with the lowest risk while higher risk and lower benefit operations are only undertaken by those with greater training and more advanced equipment.

Once Hazmat operations are in place, the strategy is two-fold; improve detection technologies to allow greater specificity of PPE requirements and expedite the ability to make entry and conduct rescue. Greater specificity of PPE potentially allows a reduction from level “A” to level “B” or “C” PPE. The lower the level of PPE used increases the number of personnel that can be equipped and engaged in rescue operations and decreases the risk of injury that is inherent in operating at higher levels of PPE from increased heat stress and reduced mobility and visibility.

### **Detection Capabilities**

Few improvements have been made since 1999 in detection of airborne contamination. While new equipment is becoming available, the ability of hazmat teams to obtain this equipment is presently dependent upon federal equipment grants. Substantial improvements have come in the

ability to identify surface samples through improved sampling techniques taught to hazmat team members and improved equipment, specifically the addition of infrared spectrometry equipment to the hazmat team arsenal. As technology permits, and can be acquired by the teams, detection, and qualitative analysis will permit greater flexibility and more rapid modification of operating requirements. At present, technologies require careful and continuous monitoring within limited parameters and attention to false positive results.

### **Removing Victims**

Operationally, hazmat teams have made substantial changes to allow, where indicated, rapid entry for rescue. These changes have been in the development of specific emergency procedures that reduce the number of personnel necessary and the pre-entry procedures where the hazmat team leader determines that lives can be saved with rapid entry. To enhance these procedures, duplicate equipment has been added to operational response units (ORU) to equip teams with the necessary detection and communications equipment to support a level “A” entry along with “sked” stretchers to allow teams to extract victims. Planned modifications to technical operations units (TOM) units will allow these units to support the same limited rescue entry without an ORU being present. Thus any combination of six hazmat technicians and any hazmat vehicle can institute rescue entry without waiting for either a full team or both types of vehicles.

Having made progress on both ends of the incident, decon on the outer end and hazmat team capabilities on the inner, it is reasonable to address the middle ground. This is the most controversial area as it poses the greatest shift from conventional hazmat incident operations. Given the ability to aid those who are self-extricating with firefighters trained at the first responder operations level and in specific decontamination methods, and given the limitations of a hazmat team’s numbers and response time, logic soon begs the question

of those victims who may have partially self-extricated or are otherwise easily reachable. The question of “what if we could get in and out quickly?” arises.

### **Chemical Protective Companies**

New York City first addressed this controversial middle ground with the development of “chemical protective companies” (CPCs). CPCs are specifically assigned ladder companies whose members are not hazmat technicians, but who are trained and equipped to make a level “A” entry for rapid rescue. Concurrently the U.S. Army Soldiers Biological and Chemical Command (SBCCOM) released a study evaluating the effectiveness of “fire fighters protective ensemble” against chemical weapons. Both approaches caused raised eyebrows.

The hazmat division reviewed the SBCCOM report and saw substantial flaws in the approach. In short, the report was based upon a single, known chemical (nerve agent) and accepted a certainly level of casualties among firefighters. Hazmat felt that this was highly dangerous and sought a vote stating a position of opposition to this approach from the Hazardous Materials Mitigation Emergency Response Advisory Board. While the vote was obtained, the position became irrelevant after SBCCOM pulled the recommendation and the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) voiced its concerns.

The chemical protective companies approach was found to have merit and hazmat worked with the Boston Fire Department as they instituted a CPC approach throughout the department. Recently, the nine Urban Area Strategic Initiative (UASI) communities have moved to adopt the approach in those metropolitan communities. The CPC approach provides the interim ground whereby rescue can be made by firefighters in chemical protective clothing with a reasonable degree of risk. While not supplanting the hazmat team capability or need at such incidents, CPC allows readily accessible and potentially savable victims to be rescued quickly.

The risk of chemical mass con-

tamination by accident or criminal act is a reality. Recent deaths in South Carolina remind us that it is not simply a concern of terrorist act. Through constant analysis, an honest assessment of capabilities and limitations, and a realistic understanding of potential presentation of such events, the Massachusetts fire service is developing a realistic strategy to effectively manage such potential incidents.

The strategy provides simple yet effective methods for training every fire department, giving them the ability to contain the emergency and aid those with the greatest likelihood of survival and largest number of possible victims. This initial response is supported by fire department units with more sophisticated equipment and specialized training. This augments and refines the effort with mass decon units that also protect critical infrastructure. Larger departments with higher risk and the resources to initiate rescue have options to do so. Finally, a robust response of local and state hazmat teams, supported by military and federal assets, brings advanced rescue, detection and operational capabilities. In its entirety, this strategy amounts to a comprehensive response system for chemical terrorism or other mass contamination event.

Part three of this series will address biological threats and the response to them. While not entirely new, this “Pandora’s Box” has been opened and the threat of biological agents being produced by terrorists or common criminals is unlikely to go away. Public concern of biological threats is also likely to remain high for the foreseeable future. Part three will discuss the approach to this threat as it has developed over the past ten years, where it is now and where it may go. ♦

<sup>1</sup> Though Boston Fire Department did not obtain the training through the Fire Academy, they were provided the course information and have adopted the procedure, bringing the total to 91 fire departments



# MFA

## COURSE SCHEDULE • 2006

### PROGRAM AREAS

Firefighting Skills Training Group Programs .....	12
Fire Officer Programs .....	15
Flammable Gas Training Programs .....	16
Hazardous Materials/ Counterterrorism Programs .....	16
Impact Programs .....	17
Instructional Methodology .....	18
Technical Rescue Programs.....	18
DPH Programs .....	19
MFIRS .....	21
Public Education Programs .....	21
Code Compliance .....	21
Special Programs .....	21
Certification .....	22
Severe Weather Cancellations Training at Headquarters .....	25
Senior Fire Officer Forum Schedule .....	26



Please note that **all applications** must be received **two (2) weeks prior** to the start of the course by fax, mail or via on-line registration at [www.mass.gov/dfs/mfa](http://www.mass.gov/dfs/mfa). For further information please call 978.567.3200.



# Firefighting Skills Training Group Programs

Coordinator, Chuck Lambert (978) 567-3216  
Assistant Coordinator, District Delivery, Robert Haskell (978) 567-3225  
Assistant Coordinator, Dick Shafer (978) 567-3216  
Assistant Coordinator, Jim Potts (978) 567-3216

## AERIAL LADDERS

Prerequisite: None  
Application Process: Complete DFS/MFA Student Application, Sections A & B.  
Class Hours: 12  
EMS Credits: None  
.....  
Course Number: 200-019-101 Session B  
Date/Time: April 8 & 9, 2006 0900-1600  
Location: Ashburnham Fire Dept. 12 Memorial Drive Ashburnham, MA  
.....  
Course Number: 200-019-101 Session A  
Date/Time: April 29 & 30, 2006 0900-1600  
Location: Wareham Fire Dept. Station 2 2368 Cranberry Highway Wareham, MA



## DRIVER AWARENESS FOR THE EMERGENCY VEHICLE OPERATOR

Prerequisite: None  
Application Process: Complete DFS/MFA Student Application, Sections A & B.  
Class Hours: 6  
EMS Credits: 6  
.....  
Course Number: 200-019-125 Session C  
Date/Time: January 17 & 31, 2006 1830-2130  
Location: Norton Fire Dept. 70 East Main Street Norton, MA  
.....  
Course Number: 200-019-125 Session D  
Date/Time: January 18, 2006 0900-1600  
Location: Norton Fire Dept. 70 East Main Street Norton, MA  
.....  
Course Number: 200-019-125 Session B  
Date/Time: January 28, 2006 0900-1600  
Location: Onset Fire Dept. 5 East Central Street Onset, MA  
.....  
Course Number: 200-019-125 Session E  
Date/Time: February 15 & March 1, 2006 1830-2130  
Location: Hubbardston Fire Dept. 48 Gardner Street Hubbardston, MA  
.....  
Course Number: 200-019-125 Session A  
Date/Time: March 11, 2006 0900-1600  
Location: Belchertown Fire Dept. 10 North Main Street Belchertown, MA

## EMERGENCY VEHICLE OPERATOR - ADVANCED

Prerequisites: This is a Priority selection Course. All applicants will be responded to by letter.  
Application Process: Complete the DFS/MFA Student Application, Section A & B.  
Class Hours: 12  
EMS Credits: 12  
.....  
Course Number: 200-019-129 Session A  
Date/Time: March 18 & 19, 2006 0900-1600  
Location: Onset Fire Dept. 5 East Central Street Onset, MA

## FIREFIGHTER 2A: F.D. ORGANIZATION, FIRE BEHAVIOR, FIRE ALARM & COMMUNICATIONS, PREVENTION, PUBLIC EDUCATION, FIRE CAUSE DETERMINATION & BUILDING CONSTRUCTION

Prerequisites: None  
Application Process: Complete the DFS/MFA Student Application, Section A & B.  
Class Hours: 12  
EMS Credits: 12  
.....  
Course Number: 200-019-270 Session A  
Date/Time: January 28 & 29, 2006 0900-1600  
Location: Orange Fire Dept. 18 Water Street Orange, MA

## FIREFIGHTER 2C: SPRINKLERS, LADDERS, VENTILATION AND OVERHAUL

Prerequisites: None  
Application Process: Complete the DFS/MFA Student Application, Section A & B.  
Class Hours: 12  
EMS Credits: 12  
.....  
Course Number: 200-019-272 Session A  
Date/Time: April 1 & 2, 2006 0900-1600  
Location: Orange Fire Dept. Station 1 18 Water Street Orange, MA

## FIREFIGHTER SURVIVAL SKILLS: SAVING OURSELVES

Prerequisites: This is a priority selection course. All applicants will be responded to by letter.  
Application Process: Complete DFS/MFA Student Application, Sections A & B.  
Class Hours: 12  
EMS Credits: 12  
.....  
Course Number: 200-019-616 Session A  
Date/Time: March 4 & 5, 2006 0900-1600  
Location: Douglas Fire Dept. 64 Main Street Douglas, MA  
.....  
Course Number: 200-019-616 Session B  
Date/Time: April 29 & 30, 2006 0900-1600  
Location: Hinsdale Fire Dept. Maple Street Hinsdale, MA

Continued on Page 13

Please note that **all applications** must be received **two (2) weeks prior** to the start of the course by fax, mail or via on-line registration at [www.mass.gov/dfs/mfa](http://www.mass.gov/dfs/mfa). For further information please call 978.567.3200.



FLASHOVER RECOGNITION

Prerequisites: This is a priority selection course. All applicants will be responded to by letter.

Application Process: Complete DFS/MFA Student Application, Sections A, B, D & E.

Class Hours: 6

EMS Credits: 6

Course Number: 200-019-291 Session F	Course Number: 200-019-291 Session B
Date/Time: March 15, 2006 0900-1600	Date/Time: April 11 & 12,2006 1830-2130
Location: Methuen Fire Dept. 24 Lowell Street Methuen, MA	Location: Hopedale Fire Dept. 40 Dutcher Street Hopedale, MA
Course Number: 200-019-291 Session G	Course Number: 200-019-291 Session K
Date/Time: April 1, 2006 0900-1600	Date/Time: April 28, 2006 0900-1600
Location: South Hadley Fire Dist. #2 20 Woodbridge Street South Hadley, MA	Location: Westfield Fire Dept. 34 Broad Street Westfield, MA
Course Number: 200-019-291 Session I	Course Number: 200-019-291 Session C
Date/Time: April 4 & 5, 2006 1830-2130	Date/Time: May 6, 2006 0900-1600
Location: Norton Fire Dept. 70 East Main Street Norton, MA	Location: Cheshire Fire Dept. 29 South Street Cheshire, MA
Course Number: 200-019-291 Session J	Course Number: 200-019-291 Session A
Date/Time: April 5, 2006 0900-1600	Date/Time: May 17, 2006 0900-1600
Location: Norton Fire Dept. 70 East Main Street Norton, MA	Location: North Adams Fire Headquarters 40 American Legion Dr. North Adams, MA

PROTECTIVE BREATHING SEARCH & RESCUE (4500)

Prerequisites: None

Application Process: Complete the DFS/MFA Student Application, Sections A & B.

Class Hours: 12

EMS Credits: None

Course Number: 200-019-117 Session A
Date/Time: April 1 & 2, 2006 0900-1600
Location: Lanesborough Fire Dept. 180 South Main Street Lanesborough, MA

LARGE DIAMETER HOSE

Prerequisites: None

Application Process: Complete the DFS/MFA Student Application, Sections A & B.

Class Hours: 12

EMS Credits: None

Course Number: 200-019-112 Session B
Dates/Time: April 8 & 9, 2006 0900-1600
Location: Millville Fire Dept., Station 1 196 Main Street Millville, MA
Course Number: 200-019-112 Session A
Dates/Time: April 24 & May 1, 2006 1900-2200 May 20, 2006 0900-1600
Location: Groton Fire Dept., Station 3 185 Lost Lake Drive Groton, MA
Course Number: 200-019-112 Section D
Date/Time: May 3 & 4, 2006 0900-1600
Location: Chicopee Fire Dept. 80 Church Street Chicopee, MA
Course Number: 200-019-112 Session C
Dates/Time: June 13 & 20, 2006 1900-2200 June 24, 2006 0900-1600
Location: Pepperell Fire Dept. 38 Park Street Pepperell, MA
Course Number: 200-019-112 Session A
Dates/Time: August 17 & 24, 2006 1830-2130 August 26, 2006 0900-1600
Location: Sherborn Fire & Rescue, Station 1 22 North Main Street Sherborn, MA

PUMPS AND HYDRAULICS

Prerequisites: None

Application Process: Complete the DFS/MFA Student Application, Sections A & B.

Class Hours: 12

EMS Credits: None

Course Number: 200-019-102 Session D
Dates/Time: February 16 & 23, 2006 1830-2130 March 4, 2006 0900-1600
Location: Sherborn Fire & Rescue, Station 1 22 North Main Street Sherborn, MA
Course Number: 200-019-102 Session F
Date/Time: April 11 & 13, 2006 0900-1600
Location: Melrose Fire Headquarters 576 Main Street Melrose, MA
Course Number: 200-019-102 Session A
Dates/Time: May 6 & 7, 2006 0900-1600
Location: Millville Fire-Rescue, Station 1 196 Main Street Millville, MA
Course Number: 200-019-102 Session C
Dates/Time: May 8 & 9, 2006 1900-2200 May 13, 2006 0900-1600
Location: Northbridge Fire Dept. 193 Main Street Whitinsville, MA
Course Number: 200-019-102 Session E
Dates/Time: May 23 & 30, 2006 1900-2200 June 3, 2006 0900-1600
Location: Pepperell Fire Dept. 38 Park Street Pepperell, MA

Continued on Page 14

Please note that **all applications** must be received **two (2) weeks prior** to the start of the course by fax, mail or via on-line registration at [www.mass.gov/dfs/mfa](http://www.mass.gov/dfs/mfa). For further information please call 978.567.3200.

RAPID CREW INTERVENTION

Prerequisites: This is a priority selection course. All applicants will be responded to by letter.

Application Process: Complete DFS/MFA Student Application, Sections A & B.

Class Hours: 12

EMS Credits: 12

Course Number: 200-019-256 Session C

Date/Time: March 6 & 18, 2006  
1900-2200  
March 25, 2006  
0900-1600

Location: Holliston Fire Dept.  
59 Central Street  
Holliston, MA

Course Number: 200-019-256 Session B

Date/Time: June 17 & 24, 2006  
0900-1600

Location: Montague Fire Dept.  
9 Station Street  
Montague, MA



RURAL WATER SUPPLY

Prerequisites: None

Application Process: Complete DFS/MFA Student Application, Sections A & B.

Class Hours: 12

EMS Credits: None

Course Number: 200-019-115 Session A

Date/Time: May 20 & 21, 2006  
0900-1600

Location: Ashburnham Fire Dept.  
12 Memorial Drive  
Ashburnham, MA

STRUCTURAL FIREFIGHTING PRACTICES

Prerequisites: All students who attend this program must have previously completed minimum training as required by the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy's Live Burn Policy. Verification of such training must be furnished by one of the following:

- Completion of DFS/MFA Student Application, Sections A, B, D & E.
- Completion certificate from the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy's Firefighter I Training Program.
- Completion certificate from the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy's Recruit Firefighter Program.
- Firefighter I certification.

Application Process: Complete DFS/MFA Student Application, Sections A, B, D & E.

This is a priority selection course: Applicants who have completed the MFA's Firefighter I Training Program will receive priority. All applicants will be responded to by letter.

Class Hours: 8

EMS Credits: 8

Course Number: 200-166-290 Session D

Date/Time: March 11, 2006  
0745-1700

Location: Barnstable County Training Facility  
Mary Dunn Road  
Barnstable, MA

Course Number: 200-166-290 Session A

Date/Time: April 12, 2006  
0745-1700

Location: DFS/MFA  
State Road  
Stow, MA

Course Number: 200-166-290 Session B

Date/Time: April 29, 2006  
0745-1700

Location: Springfield Training Academy  
100 Grochmal Avenue  
Springfield, MA

Course Number: 200-166-290 Session C

Date/Time: May 13, 2006  
0745-1700

Location: DFS/MFA  
State Road  
Stow, MA

VEHICLE EXTRICATION

Prerequisites: None

Application Process: Complete DFS/MFA Student Application, Sections A & B.

Class Hours: 12

EMS Credits: 12

Course Number: 200-019-122 Session A

Date/Time: March 25 & 26, 2006  
0900-1600

Location: Marion Fire Dept.  
50 Spring Street  
Marion, MA

VEHICLE EXTRICATION:  
NEW TECHNOLOGIES

Prerequisites: None

Application Process: Complete DFS/MFA Student Application, Sections A & B.

Class Hours: 6

EMS Credits: 6

Course Number: 200-019-127 Session A

Date/Time: May 1 & 15, 2006  
1900-2200

Location: Marion Fire Dept.  
50 Spring Street  
Marion, MA



Please note that **all applications** must be received **two (2) weeks prior** to the start of the course by fax, mail or via on-line registration at [www.mass.gov/dfs/mfa](http://www.mass.gov/dfs/mfa). For further information please call 978.567.3200.



# Fire Officer Programs

Coordinator, Andy Reardon (978) 567-3217

Assistant Coordinator, Bill Miller (978) 567-3212

## FIREFIGHTER SAFETY AND SURVIVAL: THE COMPANY OFFICER'S RESPONSIBILITY

Prerequisites: This is a priority selection course. All applicants will be responded to by letter.

Application Process: Complete DFS/MFA Student Application, Sections A & B.

Class Hours: 12

EMS Credits: 12

Course Number:  
200-029-113 Session A

Date/Time:  
February 7 & 9, 2006  
1900-2200  
February 11, 2006  
0900-1600

Location:  
Truro Fire Dept.  
344 Route 6  
Truro, MA

Course Number:  
200-019-113 Session A

Date/Time:  
June 3 & 4, 2006  
0900-1600

Location:  
Shirley Fire Dept.  
8 Leominster Road  
Shirley, MA

## LEADERSHIP (1): STRATEGIES FOR COMPANY SUCCESS

Prerequisites: This is a priority selection course. All applicants will be responded to by letter.

Application Process: Complete DFS/MFA Student Application, Sections A & B.

Class Hours: 12

EMS Credits: 12

Course Number:  
200-029-332 Session A

Date/Time:  
February 7, 9, 21 & 23, 2006  
1900-2200

Location:  
Littleton Fire Dept.  
20 Foster Street  
Littleton, MA

## FIRE OFFICER SUPERVISORY TRAINING

Prerequisites: This is a priority selection course. All applicants will be responded to by letter.

Application Process: Complete DFS/MFA Student Application, Sections A & B.

Class Hours: 60

EMS Credits: 28

Course Number:  
200-029-338 Session A

Date/Time:  
January 3, 5, 10, 12, 17, 19, 24,  
26, 31, 2006  
1900-2200  
January 7, 21 & February 2, 4, 7, 9  
& 11, 2006  
0800-1700

Location:  
West Barnstable Fire Dept.  
2160 Meetinghouse Way  
West Barnstable, MA

Course Number:  
200-029-338 Session B

Date/Time:  
January 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 30, 31  
& February 1, 2 & 3, 2006  
0900-1600

Location:  
Holyoke Fire Dept.  
600 High Street  
Holyoke, MA

Course Number:  
200-029-338 Session C

Date/Time:  
February 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 20, 21,  
22, 23 & 24, 2006  
0800-1600

## TACTICS AND STRATEGY FOR THE FIREFIGHTER

Prerequisites: None

Application Process: Complete DFS/MFA Student Application, Sections A & B.

Class Hours: 12

EMS Credits: 12

Course Number:  
200-019-121 Session A

Date/Time:  
May 20 & 21, 2006  
0800-1700

Location:  
Shirley Fire Dept.  
8 Leominster Road  
Shirley, MA

Location:  
Salem Fire Dept.  
48 Lafayette Street  
Salem, MA

Course Number:  
200-019-338 Session A

Date/Time:  
March 7, 9, 15, 21, 23, 29, April 4,  
6, 12, 18, 20 & 26, 2006  
1900-2200  
March 18 & April 1, 15 & 29, 2006  
0800-1600

Location:  
Oxford Fire Dept.  
181 Main Street  
Oxford, MA

Course Number:  
200-029-338 Session E

Date/Time:  
April 24 thru 30, 2006  
May 1 thru 5, 2006  
0900-1600

Location:  
Massport Fire Dept.  
1 Haborside Drive  
East Boston, MA

Course Number:  
200-029-338 Session D

Date/Time:  
May 15 thru 19 &  
May 22 thru 26 2006  
0800-1600

Location:  
Milford Fire Dept.  
21 Birch Street  
Milford, MA

Course Number:  
200-019-121 Session B

Date/Time:  
March 14 & 15, 2006  
0800-1700

Location:  
Hopkinton Fire Dept.  
73 Main Street  
Hopkinton, MA

## FIRE OFFICER TACTICAL TRAINING

Prerequisites: Fire Officer Supervisory Training (FOST). This is a priority selection course. All applicants will be responded to by letter.

Application Process: Complete DFS/MFA Student Application, Sections A, B, D & E.

Class Hours: 21

EMS Credits: 18

Course Number:  
200-029-339 Session B

Date/Time:  
April 3 thru 5 2006  
0700-1600

Location:  
DFS/MFA  
1025 State Road  
Stow, MA

Course Number:  
200-029-339 Session A

Date/Time:  
June 26, 28 & 30, 2006  
0700-1600

Location:  
DFS/MFA  
1025 State Road  
Stow, MA

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# Flammable Gas Training Programs

Acting Coordinator, Richard Swartz (978) 567-3211

Assistant Coordinator, Peter Cutrone (978) 567-3211

## BASIC LIQUEFIED NATURAL GAS (LNG)

Prerequisites: None

Application Process: Complete  
DFS/MFA Student Application,  
Sections A, B, D & E.

Class Hours: 8

Course Number:  
200-229-414 Session A

Date/Time:  
May 30, 2006  
0800-1700

Location:  
DFS/MFA  
State Road  
Stow, MA

## BASIC PROPANE

Prerequisites: None

Application Process: Complete  
DFS/MFA Student Application,  
Sections A, B, D & E.

Class Hours: 8

Course Number:  
200-229-416 Session A

Date/Time:  
June 20, 2006  
0800-1700

Location:  
DFS/MFA  
State Road  
Stow, MA

## COMMAND AND CONTROL OF GAS EMERGENCIES

Prerequisites: None

Application Process: Complete  
DFS/MFA Student Application,  
Sections A & B.

Class Hours: 8

EMS Credits: 8  
Course Number:  
200-224-411 Session C

Date/Time:  
January 14, 2006  
0800-1700

Location:  
West Stockbridge Town Hall  
Stateline Road  
West Stockbridge, MA

Course Number:  
200-224-411 Session A

Date/Time:  
February 21, 2006  
0800-1700

Location:  
Longmeadow Fire Dept.  
44 Williams Street  
Longmeadow, MA

Course Number:  
200-224-411 Session B

Date/Time:  
March 6, 2006  
0800-1700

Location:  
Auburn Fire Dept.  
47 Auburn Street  
Auburn, MA

## FLAMMABLE GAS FIREFIGHTER TRAINING: CLASSROOM

Prerequisites: None

Application Process: Complete  
DFS/MFA Student Application,  
Sections A & B.

Class Hours: 8

Course Number:  
200-229-401 Session A

Date/Time:  
May 9, 2006,  
0800-1700

Location:  
DFS/MFA  
State Road  
Stow, MA

## FLAMMABLE GAS FIREFIGHTER TRAINING: PRACTICAL

Prerequisites: Must complete classroom portion (course # 401). Students attending the practical session must bring their SCBA and one spare air cylinder. **This course requires the use of a full-face shield with turnout gear and SCBA. Goggles are not acceptable.**

Application Process: Complete  
DFS/MFA Student Application,  
Sections A, B, D & E.

Class Hours: 8

Course Number:  
200-229-402 Session A

Date/Time:  
May 23 & 24, 2006  
1800-2200

Location:  
DFS/MFA  
State Road  
Stow, MA

# Hazardous Materials/ Counterterrorism Programs

Coordinator, Martin Greene (978) 567-3209

Assistant Coordinator, Gordon Diotalevi (978) 567-3209

Assistant Coordinator, Robert Zalewski (978) 567-3209

## HAZARDOUS MATERIALS – FIRST RESPONDER OPERATIONAL

Prerequisites: None

Application Process: Complete  
DFS/MFA Student Application,  
Sections A & B.

Class Hours: 24

EMS Credits: 24

Course Number:  
200-079-207 Session A

Date/Time:  
January 11 & 18 &  
February 8, 2006  
1830-2130  
February 11 & 21, 2006  
0800-1700

Location:  
Groton Fire Dept., Station 3  
185 Lost Lake Drive  
Groton, MA



Please note that **all applications** must be received **two (2) weeks prior** to the start of the course by fax, mail or via on-line registration at [www.mass.gov/dfs/mfa](http://www.mass.gov/dfs/mfa). For further information please call 978.567.3200.



# IMPACT

## Impact Programs

Coordinator, Bill Miller (978) 567-3212

Assistant Coordinator, Don Jasmin (978) 567-3212

### ARSON AWARENESS

Short program that is designed to give all fire personnel a quick overview on fire behavior, scene preservation, observation and signs of arson, some legal aspects and reporting the information. *\*Course Number 069 – 444 \*\*Approved OEMS Credit Hours (3)*

### AUTOMATIC SPRINKLER SYSTEMS

A 3-hour slide and lecture presentation designed to familiarize the firefighter with the component parts of an automatic sprinkler system. It describes different types of sprinkler systems and identifies factors resulting in excessive fire damage to sprinklered buildings. *\*Course Number 069 – 426 \*\*Approved OEMS Credit Hours (3)*

### COMMON EMERGENCIES

This new program has been designed to give the firefighters an overview of calls that they deal with every day such as electrical, heating gas, water leaks, vehicle fires, kitchen, bedroom, and trash fires, carbon monoxide detectors and alarm systems. *\*Course Number 069 – 429 \*\*Approved OEMS Credit Hours (3)*

### COMPRESSED NATURAL GAS VEHICLE AWARENESS

This 3-hour program consists of a classroom session on the construction of a CNG (Compressed Natural Gas) vehicle and the hazards it poses and procedures that should be utilized when one is encountered in an emergency. *\*Course Number 069 – 404 \*\*Approved OEMS Credit Hours (3)*

### CONFINED SPACE RESCUE/TRENCH RESCUE AWARENESS

This program is intended to get the firefighter to realize the acute dangers involved in these types of specialized rescue incidents. The presentation stresses safety and self-preservation. *\*Course Number 069 – 427 \*\*Approved OEMS Credit Hours (3)*

### DEFENSIVE DRIVING TO DIE FOR (POV)

A 3-hour program that is designed to give firefighters an overview of all safety aspects when responding to calls in their personal vehicles. *\*Course Number 069 – 443 \*\*Approved OEMS Credit Hours (3)*

### ELEVATORS AND THE FIRE SERVICE

A program designed to familiarize fire personnel with the safe operation of elevators equipped with the fire service key – the “3502” key. *\*Course Number 069 – 428 \*\*Approved OEMS Credit Hours (3)*

### FIRE ATTACK

This program is designed to familiarize fire personnel with the principals of modern structural fire combat, including line selection, attack modes, and hydraulic ventilation. *\*Course Number 069 – 433 \*\*Approved OEMS Credit Hours (3)*

### FOAM

A program designed to increase firefighter awareness and ability in the use of Class B (flammable liquids), “Firefighting Foam”. Emphasis is placed on host department needs with specific discussion of foam concentrate types and how they work, correct methods of mixing, necessary equipment, how to fight fires with foam, hazardous materials as they relate to the use of foam and equipment maintenance. *\*Course Number 069 – 430*

### HANDLING NATURAL GAS EMERGENCIES

This program is designed to give fire personnel some guidelines to use when responding to reported gas emergencies. The concentration in this program centers upon the use of Combustible Gas Indicators (CGI), and wearing of SCBA and protective clothing. The program has been developed in cooperation with the local gas company. *\*Course Number 069 – 431 \*\*Approved OEMS Credit Hours (3)*

### INFECTIOUS DISEASE CONTROL

A slide and lecture presentation designed to make the firefighter aware of the inherent risks of, and proper procedures for working with infectious diseases. The program includes discussion of terminology, regulations, laws and standards, principles of disease transmission, universal precautions and body substance isolation. *\*Course Number 069 – 439 \* Approved OEMS Credit Hours (3)*

### RAPID INTERVENTION

A short program that will make the firefighter aware of the value of providing a dedicated crew for rescuing trapped or downed firefighters. The student will develop knowledge of firefighter survival skills, what a rapid intervention crew is, why it is needed, the skills of its members, equipment necessary and suggestions on conducting effective training in its use. *\*Course Number 069 – 438 \*\*Approved OEMS Credit Hours (3)*

### SAFETY FOR THE FIREFIGHTER

A program designed to impress upon the firefighter the importance of safety in quarters and at drills, while operating apparatus, and when using tools as well as during actual firefighting operations. As in all Academy programs, the wearing of proper protective clothing and the use of SCBA is stressed. *\*Course Number 069 – 434 \*\*Approved OEMS Credit Hours (3)*

### STRUCTURAL HAZARDS

This program is designed to give fire service personnel some insight into structural hazards they may encounter. The presentation will make firefighters more aware of common building defects in old as well as new construction. *\*Course Number 069 – 435 \*\*Approved OEMS Credit Hours (3)*

### VEHICLE FIRES

A program designed to familiarize firefighters with potential hazards to be encountered in vehicle fires. The car fires program has been expanded to include more information on other vehicles firefighters might encounter in an emergency. Firefighters will be more aware of the life safety hazards associated with fighting vehicle fires in automobiles, buses, wheelchair vans and commercial vehicles. The wearing of proper gear and proper tactics are stressed. *\*Course Number 069 – 436 \*\*Approved OEMS Credit Hours (3)*

# PROGRAMS

Please note that **all applications** must be received **two (2) weeks prior** to the start of the course by fax, mail or via on-line registration at [www.mass.gov/dfs/mfa](http://www.mass.gov/dfs/mfa). For further information please call 978.567.3200.

# Instructional Methodology

Coordinator Joseph Guarnara (978) 567-3258

## INSTRUCTOR METHODOLOGY #1

Prerequisites: This is a priority selection course. All students will be responded to by letter.

Application Process: Complete DFS/MFA Student Application, Sections A & B.

Class Hours: 36

EMS Credits: None

Course Number: 200-115-354 Session A	Course Number: 200-115-354 Session B
Date/Time: January 30, 31 & February 1, 2 & 3, 2006 0800-1700	Date/Time: March 27, 28, 29, 30 & 31, 2006 0800-1700
Location: Onset Fire Dept. 5 East Central Street Onset, MA	Location: Rutland Fire Dept. 240 Main Street Rutland, MA
Course Number: 200-115-354 Session D	Course Number: 200-115-354 Session C
Date/Time: January 31, & February 7, 14 & 21, 2006 1800-2200 February 11, 18 & 25, 2006 0800-1700	Date/Time: May 22, 23, 24, 25 & 26, 2006 0800-1700
Location: Ashburnham Fire Dept. 12 Memorial Drive Street Ashburnham, MA	Location: Wellesley Fire Dept. 457 Worcester Street Wellesley, MA



## INSTRUCTOR METHODOLOGY #2

Prerequisites: Instructor Methodology I, This is a priority selection course. All students will be responded to by letter.	Course Number: 200-115-363 Session A
Application Process: Complete DFS/MFA Student Application, Sections A & B.	Date/Time: April 3, 4, 11, 12 & 18, 2006 0800-1700
Class Hours: 36	Location: Attleboro Fire Dept. 123 Newport Ave Attleboro, MA
EMS Credits: None	

# Technical Rescue Programs

Coordinator, Mark McCabe (978) 567-3214

Assistant Coordinator, Tom Rinaldo (978) 567-3214

## ADVANCED ROPE RESCUE

Prerequisites: Completion of Basic Rope Rescue course #301.

Application Process: Complete DFS/MFA Student Application, Sections A & B. All applicants should also submit documentation of prior rope rescue training.

Class Hours: 18

EMS Credits: 18

Course Number:  
200-197-307 Session A

Date/Time:  
April 4, 5 & 6, 2006  
0900-1600

Location:  
Framingham Fire Dept.  
10 Loring Drive  
Framingham, MA

## BASIC ROPE RESCUE

Prerequisites: None

Application Process: Complete DFS/MFA Student Application, Sections A & B.

Class Hours: 18

EMS Credits: 18

Course Number:  
200-197-303 Session A

Dates/Time:  
April 18, 19 & 20, 2006  
0900-1600

Location:  
Franklin Fire Dept., Station 2  
600 King Street  
Franklin, MA

Course Number:  
200-019-303 Session A

Dates/Time:  
May 16, 17 & 18, 2006  
0900-1600

Location:  
Lynn Fire Dept.  
325 Broad Street (MBTA  
Commuter Rail Parking Garage)  
Lynn, MA

Course Number:  
200-019-303 Session B

Dates/Time:  
June 23, 24 & 25, 2006  
0900-1600

Location:  
Cheshire Fire Dept.  
29 South Street  
Cheshire, MA

## BASIC CONFINED SPACE RESCUE

Prerequisites: Previous rope rescue training is strongly recommended.

Application Process: Complete DFS/MFA Student Application, Sections A & B. All applicants should also submit documentation of prior rope rescue training.

Class Hours: 18

EMS Credits: 18

Course Number:  
200-196-301 Session A

Date/Time:  
February 24, 25 & 26, 2006  
0900-1600

Location:  
North Adams Fire Dept.  
40 American Legion Dr.  
North Adams, MA

Course Number:  
200-196-301 Session B

Date/Time:  
March 24, 25 & 26, 2006  
0900-1600

Location:  
Manchester Fire Dept.  
12 School Street  
Manchester, MA

Course Number:  
200-019-301 Session A

Date/Time:  
May 3, 4 & 5, 2006  
0900-1600

Location:  
Norton Fire Dept.  
70 East Main Street  
Norton, MA

Continued on Page 19



Please note that **all applications** must be received **two (2) weeks prior** to the start of the course by fax, mail or via on-line registration at [www.mass.gov/dfs/mfa](http://www.mass.gov/dfs/mfa). For further information please call 978.567.3200.



SURFACE ICE RESCUE

Prerequisites: Student must bring approved ice rescue suits. Students are expected to participate in rigorous hands-on exercises and must be able to swim.	
Application Process: Complete DFS/MFA Student Application, Sections A & B.	
Class Hours: 8	
EMS Credits: 8	
Course Number: 200-195-302 Session A	Course Number: 200-019-302 Session C
Dates/Time: January 17, 2006 0800-1700	Dates/Time: February 8, 2006 0800-1700
Location: Taunton Fire Dept. 40 North Walker Street - Oakland Station Taunton, MA	Location: Franklin Fire Dept. - Station 2 600 King Street Franklin, MA
Course Number: 200-019-302 Session A	Course Number: 200-019-302 Session D
Dates/Time: January 28, 2006 0800-1700	Dates/Time: February 11, 2006 0800-1700
Location: Rehoboth Fire Dept. 333 Tremount Street Rehoboth, MA	Location: Otis Fire Dept. 15 South Main Road Otis, MA
Course Number: 200-195-302 Session B	Course Number: 200-019-302 Session E
Dates/Time: February 1, 2006 0800-1700	Dates/Time: February 16, 2006 0800-1700
Location: Framingham Fire Dept. 10 Loring Avenue Framingham, MA	Location: Westfield Fire Dept. 34 Broad Street Westfield, MA



DPH Programs

<b>EMS INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM &amp; HAZMAT AWARENESS PROGRAM COURSE #472</b>  The Massachusetts Department of Public Health and the Massachusetts Department of Fire Services have developed a one-day program on Incident Command System and Hazardous Materials Awareness (EMS ICS-HMA) for emergency medical service professionals under a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration. The program will be conducted in fire stations and private ambulance company sites for emergency medical service professionals. The program will provide Hazardous Materials Awareness and Incident Command System training to enable emergency medical service providers to respond to a hazardous materials incident or public health emergency safely and in a coordinated and unified approach with other emergency responders in the community.  The program is designed for all emergency medical service professionals to prepare them for hazardous materials, decontamination, or public health emergency incidents, including fire service, private service and third service providers.  Application Process: Complete DFS/MFA Student Application, Sections A & B.  Class Hours: 6 EMS Credits: 6	<b>EMS PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT AND DECONTAMINATION PROGRAM COURSE #473</b>  The Massachusetts Department of Public Health and the Massachusetts Department of Fire Services have developed a two-day program on Emergency Medical Services Personal Protective Equipment and Decontamination (EMS PPE/Decon) for Emergency Medical Service professionals under a Cooperative Agreement with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration. The program will be conducted in fire stations and private ambulance company sites for emergency medical service professionals.  The program will enable emergency medical service providers to safely utilize personal protective equipment, acquire decontamination skills, and contribute to decontamination efforts in a coordinated and unified approach with other emergency responders in the community.  The program is designed for all emergency medical service professionals to prepare them for hazardous materials and public health emergency incidents, including fire service, private service and third service providers.  Prerequisite: The Incident Command System and Hazardous Materials Awareness program is a prerequisite to the Emergency Medical Services Personal Protective Equipment and Decontamination program, or certification and training to the Hazardous Materials Operational Level and Incident Command System Training to the ICS 100 Level.  Application Process: Complete DFS/MFA Student Application, Sections A & B.  Class Hours: 12 EMS Credits: 12  For information and scheduling please contact the course coordinator  Marty Greene, Department of Fire Services Liaison to Department of Public Health for Training  Tel: 978-567-3209 Email: Marty.Greene@ state.ma.us
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continued on Page 20

Please note that **all applications** must be received **two (2) weeks prior** to the start of the course by fax, mail or via on-line registration at [www.mass.gov/dfs/mfa](http://www.mass.gov/dfs/mfa). For further information please call 978.567.3200.



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM FOR HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS PROGRAM COURSE #497

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health and the Massachusetts Department of Fire Services have developed an Incident Command System for health care providers.

The program objectives are to:

- Promote an increased understanding of the ICS for health care providers;
- Gain an understanding of an ICS instrument;
- Identify the ICS elements necessary to coordinate response activities at any “all-hazards” incident;
- Understand the special considerations affecting ICS in the health care environment;
- Promote a coordinated and unified community response by health care providers in the event of an incident requiring the initiation of incident command;
- Understand Incident Command transition considerations;

This program is for hospital and other health care facility professionals, including nurses, nurse managers, advanced practice nurses, physicians, physician assistants, emergency department technicians, staff educators, safety directors, department heads and administrators.

Application Process: Must pre-register with the Department of Fire Services.

Class Hours: 6

CME Credits: 6

HOSPITAL PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT AND DECONTAMINATION PROGRAM

COURSE #498

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health and the Massachusetts Department of Fire Services have developed a Hospital Personal Protective Equipment and Decontamination program under a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration. The program will be conducted in Massachusetts hospitals for all healthcare professionals potentially involved in hazardous materials or public health incidents requiring the use of personal protective equipment and/or decontamination. The program will enable health care professionals to safely utilize personal protective equipment; acquire skills for decontamination in the hospital setting; and contribute to decontamination efforts in a coordinated and unified approach with other emergency

responders in the community.

At the completion of the program participants will be able to:

- Identify hazardous materials in the hospital environment
- Identify the basic chemical/physical properties of hazardous materials
- Identify types of agents and/or associated signs/symptoms of exposure
- Identify monitoring/identification equipment and detection methods
- Identify correct choice of PPE and demonstrate ability to don/doff PPE safely and correctly
- Identify safe and appropriate hospital patient decontamination procedures
- Identify the key components of Incident Command System for Health Care Providers instituted

during an incident requiring PPE and decontamination

Designed for all hospital employees potentially involved in incidents requiring the use of PPE and/or decontamination.

Application Process: Must pre-register with the Department of Fire Services.

Class Hours: 12

CME Credits: 12

For information and scheduling please contact the course coordinator:

Mary Taschner, APRN, BC, MS  
Department of Public Health Liaison for Training-  
Department of Fire Services

Tel: (978) 567-3210

Email: [mary.taschner@dfs.state.ma.us](mailto:mary.taschner@dfs.state.ma.us)

Please note that **all applications** must be received **two (2) weeks prior** to the start of the course by fax, mail or via on-line registration at [www.mass.gov/dfs/mfa](http://www.mass.gov/dfs/mfa). For further information please call 978.567.3200.

# MFIRS

Coordinator Derryl Dion (978) 567-3382

## MASSACHUSETTS FIRE INCIDENT REPORTING SYSTEM V5

The Massachusetts Fire Incident Reporting System (MFIRS) v5 training is designed to teach fire departments the system of reporting and its requirements.

Fire chiefs are encouraged to send two or more members to one of these training sessions so that each department can gain a critical understanding of how MFIRS works and how the data is used and may be used. They will also learn of any new updates to the system.

Fire departments using this training as train-the-trainer may obtain training materials by contacting the MFIRS Coordinator at the above number.

Prerequisites: None

Application Process: Complete DFS/MFA Student Application, Sections A & B

Class Hours: 4  
EMS Credits: 4  
Course Number: 200-000-613 Session A  
Date/Time: March 2, 2006 0900-1300  
Location: DFS/MFA State Road Stow, MA  
Course Number: 200-000-613 Session B  
Date/Time: May 2, 2006 0900-1300  
Location: DFS/MFA State Road Stow, MA



# Public Education Programs

Coordinator, Mark Armstrong (978) 567-3387

## PUBLIC FIRE & LIFE SAFETY EDUCATOR

Public Fire and Life Safety Educator is a 40-hour program designed to provide a community with the basis for a solid public education program. This course is best suited for a department's lead instructor or members of those communities who have not previously participated in this training. This class will be filled on a first come, first served basis with preference given to communities who have received a S.A.F.E. Grant.

Prerequisites: None  
Application Process: Complete DFS/MFA Student Application, Sections A & B.  
Class Hours: 40  
EMS Credits: 24  
Course Number: 200-271-601 Session A  
Date/Time: February 27, 28 & March 7, 8, & 15, 2006 0800-1700  
Location: Dracut Fire Dept. 488 Pleasant Street Dracut, MA

# Code Compliance

David Beaudin (978) 567-3711

## BLASTING DETAIL ORIENTATION

Prerequisites: None.

Application Process: Complete DFS/MFA Student Application, Sections A & B.

Class Hours: 2

EMS Credits: None

Course Number: 200-000-611 Session A	Course Number: 200-000-611 Session F
Dates/Time: January 4, 2006 1000-1200	Dates/Time: January 24, 2006 1000-1200
Location: DFS/MFA State Road Stow, MA	Location: Waltham Fire Dept. Central Station 175 Lexington Street Waltham, MA
Course Number: 200-000-611 Session C	Course Number: 200-000-611 Session D
Dates/Time: January 10, 2006 1000-1200	Dates/Time: February 7, 2006 1000-1200
Location: North Andover Fire Dept. 124 Main Street North Andover, MA	Location: Woburn Police Dept. 25 Harrison Avenue Woburn, MA
Course Number: 200-000-611 Session B	Course Number: 200-000-611 Session E
Dates/Time: January 19, 2006 1000-1200	Dates/Time: February 15, 2006 1000-1200
Location: Auburn Fire Dept. 5 West Street Auburn, MA	Location: Springfield Training Academy 100 Grochmal Avenue Springfield, MA

# Special Programs

## NATIONAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM ICS 100

ICS 100, Introduction to the Incident Command System, introduces the Incident Command System (ICS) and provides the foundation for higher level ICS training. This course describes the history, features, and principles, and organizational structure of the Incident Command System. It also explains the relationship between ICS and the National Incident Management System (NIMS).

## NATIONAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM ICS 200

This course will help students recognize the importance of an effective incident command system (ICS) and understand it's various components. Students will be allowed to explore the benefits of the ICS applied to their own department or jurisdiction. This will demonstrate to the students how the effective implementation of the ICS and its subsequent use will positively effect incident management.

For information and scheduling, please contact the course coordinator:

Henry Michalski  
Department of Fire Services  
Massachusetts Firefighting Academy

Tel: (978) 567-3252

Please note that **all applications** must be received **two (2) weeks prior** to the start of the course by fax, mail or via on-line registration at [www.mass.gov/dfs/mfa](http://www.mass.gov/dfs/mfa). For further information please call 978.567.3200.



# Certification

Coordinator, Rick Connelly (978) 567-3223  
Assistant Coordinator, Paul Ford (978) 567-3223

Logistics Coordinator, Don Hurme (978) 567-3222  
Administrative Assistant, Julie Kilbride (978) 567-3228

## FIREFIGHTER I (WRITTEN PORTION ONLY)

Prerequisites:

- Must be at least 18 years of age at the time of examination.
- Must possess a high school diploma or GED at the time of the examination.
- Must be a member of the Massachusetts fire service. (See examination application section three for details.)

Examination Date:  
February 4, 2006

Application Deadline:  
January 20, 2006

Examination Fee: \$30.00

Location(s):  
DFS/MFA  
State Road  
Stow, MA

## FIREFIGHTER I/II (WRITTEN PORTION ONLY)

Prerequisites:

- Must be at least 18 years of age at the time of examination.
- Must possess a high school diploma or GED at the time of the examination.
- Must be a member of the Massachusetts fire service. (See examination application section three for details.)

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First Offering:

Examination Date: January 7, 2006

Application Deadline:  
December 23, 2006

Examination Fee: \$30.00

Location(s):  
DFS/MFA  
State Road  
Stow, MA

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Second Offering:

Examination Date:  
March 18, 2006

Application Deadline:  
March 4, 2006

Examination Fee: \$30.00

Location(s):  
Barnstable County Training Facility  
Mary Dunn Road  
Barnstable, MA

## FIRE INSPECTOR I

Prerequisites:

- Must be at least 18 years of age at the time of examination.
- Must possess a high school diploma or GED at the time of the examination.
- Must be a member of the Massachusetts fire service. (See examination application section three for details.)

Examination Date: March 8, 2006

Application Deadline:  
February 23, 2006

Examination Fee: \$30.00  
(both exams)

Examinations and Times:  
“GENERAL” 0900 Hours  
“LAWS & REGULATIONS”  
1300 Hours

Location(s):  
DFS/MFA  
State Road  
Stow, MA

## FIRE INSPECTOR II

Prerequisites:

- Must be at least 18 years of age at the time of examination.
- Must possess a high school diploma or GED at the time of the examination.
- Must be a member of the Massachusetts fire service. (See examination application section three for details.)
- **All Candidates** who were appointed to the Massachusetts Fire Service on or after January 1, 1990, shall furnish proof of certification to the level of Firefighter II (Firefighter II or Firefighter I/II) by the Massachusetts Fire Training Council OR received reciprocal credit from either the National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications, Inc. OR the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress.

Examination Date:  
April 18, 2006

Application Deadline:  
April 4, 2006

Examination Fee: \$30.00  
(both exams)

Examinations and Times:  
“GENERAL”  
09:00 Hours  
“LAWS & REGULATIONS”  
13:00 Hours

Location(s):  
DFS/MFA  
State Road  
Stow, MA

## FIRE INSTRUCTOR I (WRITTEN PORTION ONLY)

Prerequisites:

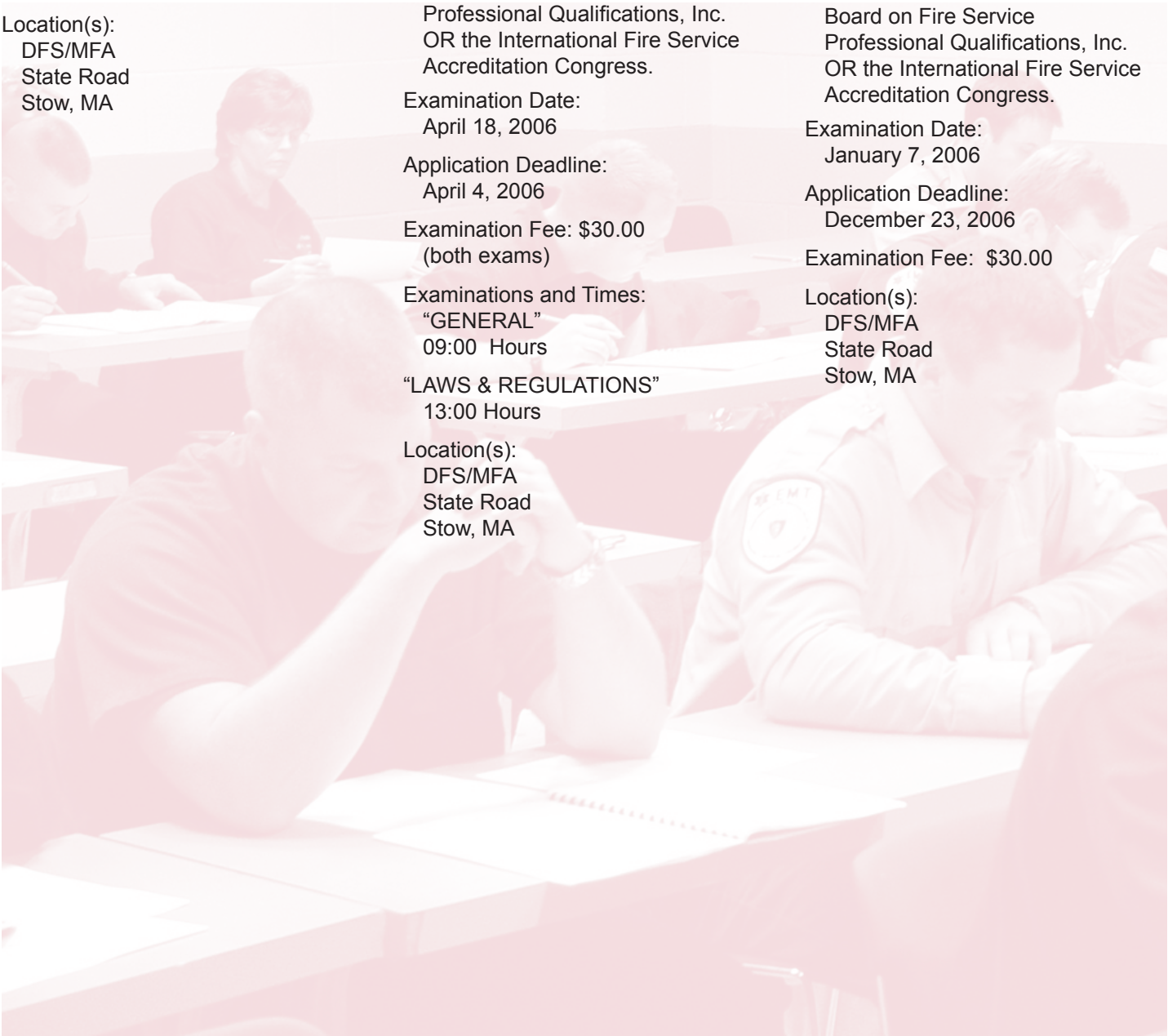
- Must be at least 18 years of age at the time of examination.
- Must possess a high school diploma or GED at the time of the examination.
- Must be a member of the Massachusetts fire service. (See examination application section three for details.)
- **All Candidates** who were appointed to the Massachusetts Fire Service on or after January 1, 1990, shall furnish proof of certification to the level of Firefighter II (Firefighter II or Firefighter I/II) by the Massachusetts Fire Training Council OR received reciprocal credit from either the National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications, Inc. OR the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress.

Examination Date:  
January 7, 2006

Application Deadline:  
December 23, 2006

Examination Fee: \$30.00

Location(s):  
DFS/MFA  
State Road  
Stow, MA



Continued on Page 23

Please note that **all applications** must be received **two (2) weeks prior** to the start of the course by fax, mail or via on-line registration at [www.mass.gov/dfs/mfa](http://www.mass.gov/dfs/mfa). For further information please call 978.567.3200.

FIRE INSTRUCTOR II  
(WRITTEN PORTION ONLY)

- Prerequisites:
- Must be at least 18 years of age at the time of examination.
  - Must possess a high school diploma or GED at the time of the examination.
  - Must be a member of the Massachusetts fire service. (See examination application section three for details.)
  - **All Candidates** who were appointed to the Massachusetts Fire Service on or after January 1, 1990, shall furnish proof of certification to the level of Firefighter II (Firefighter II or Firefighter I/II) by the Massachusetts Fire Training Council OR received reciprocal credit from either the National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications, Inc. OR the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress.

Examination Date:  
June 7, 2006

Application Deadline:  
May 25, 2006

Examination Fee: \$30.00

Location(s):  
DFS/MFA  
State Road  
Stow, MA

FIRE OFFICER I  
(WRITTEN PORTION ONLY)

- Prerequisites:
- Must be at least 18 years of age at the time of the examination.
  - Must possess a high school diploma or GED at the time of the examination.
  - Must be a member of the Massachusetts fire service. (See examination application section 3 for details.)
- Examination prerequisites:
- **All Firefighters** must be certified to the level of Firefighter II (Firefighter II or Firefighter I/II) by the Massachusetts Fire Training Council OR received reciprocal credit from either the National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications, Inc. OR the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress.
  - **Fire Officers** appointed to the officer rank of Lieutenant, Captain, or any Chief Officer prior to January 1, 1995 and serving in that officer rank at the time of application must submit the "Fire Officer Prerequisite" form completed by the Chief of Department.

Examination Date:  
February 8, 2006

Application Deadline:  
May 25, 2006

Examination Fee: \$30.00

Location(s):  
DFS/MFA  
State Road  
Stow, MA

FIRE OFFICER II  
(WRITTEN PORTION ONLY)

- Prerequisites:
- Must be at least 18 years of age at the time of the examination.
  - Must possess a high school diploma or GED at the time of the examination.
  - Must be a member of the Massachusetts fire service. (See examination application section 3 for details.)
- Examination prerequisites:
- **All Firefighters** must be certified to the level of Firefighter II (Firefighter II or Firefighter I/II) by the Massachusetts Fire Training Council OR received reciprocal credit from either the National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications, Inc. OR the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress.
  - **Fire Officers** appointed to the officer rank of Lieutenant, Captain, or any Chief Officer prior to January 1, 1995 and serving in that officer rank at the time of application must be certified to the level of Fire Officer I and Fire Instructor I by the Massachusetts Fire Training Council OR received reciprocal credit from either the National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications, Inc. OR the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress.
  - **Fire Officers** appointed to the officer rank of Lieutenant, Captain, or any other Chief Officer prior to January 1, 1995 and serving in that officer rank at the time of application must submit the "Fire Officer Prerequisite" form completed by the Chief of Department.

Examination Date:  
April 5, 2006

Application Deadline:  
March 23, 2006

Examination Fee: \$30.00

Location(s):  
DFS/MFA  
State Road  
Stow, MA

FIRE INVESTIGATOR  
(WRITTEN PORTION ONLY)

- Prerequisites: Individuals eligible to become certified by the Coalition are as follows:
- 1. A person who is a member of one or more of the following:**
- a. A federal, state, county, or municipal law enforcement department or fire department in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, compensated or uncompensated.
  - b. A non-municipal organization whose sole function is to provide a full range of services equivalent to a municipal fire department to a municipality in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, compensated or uncompensated.
  - c. Full-time employees of the Massachusetts Department of Fire Services, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management, Massachusetts Port Authority and University of Massachusetts.
  - d. Full-time, civilian (non-military) members of military police or fire departments on installations, which are located within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

**2. And who are appointed/sworn and who are assigned to participate in fire investigations in the Commonwealth.**

**3. Private fire investigators are not eligible for certification under this system operated by the Coalition.**

Examination Date:  
May 13, 2006

Application Deadline:  
April 28, 2006

Examination Fee: \$30.00

Location(s):  
DFS/MFA  
State Road  
Stow, MA



DRIVER/OPERATOR- PUMPER  
(WRITTEN PORTION ONLY)

Prerequisites:

- Must be at least 18 years of age at the time of the examination.
- Must possess a high school diploma or GED at the time of the examination.
- Must be a member of the Massachusetts fire service. (See examination application section 3 for details.)
- **All candidates** who were appointed to the Massachusetts Fire service on or after January 1, 1990 shall furnish proof of certification to the level of Firefighter I by the Massachusetts Fire Training Council OR received reciprocal credit from either the National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications, Inc. OR the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress.

Examination Date:  
April 22, 2006

Application Deadline:  
April 28, 2006

Examination Fee: \$30.00

Location(s):  
DFS/MFA  
State Road  
Stow, MA



DRIVER OPERATOR-AERIAL (WRITTEN PORTION ONLY)

Prerequisites:

- Must be at least 18 years of age at the time of the examination.
- Must possess a high school diploma or GED at the time of the examination.
- Must be a member of the Massachusetts fire service. (See examination application section 3 for details.)
- **All candidates** who were appointed to the Massachusetts Fire service on or after January 1, 1990 shall furnish proof of certification to the level of Firefighter I by the Massachusetts Fire Training Council OR received reciprocal credit from either the National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications, Inc. OR the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress.

Examination Date: May 13, 2006

Application Deadline: May 1, 2006

Examination Fee: \$30.00

Location(s):  
DFS/MFA  
State Road  
Stow, MA

PUBLIC EDUCATOR I  
(WRITTEN PORTION ONLY)

Prerequisites:

- Must be at least 18 years of age at the time of the examination.
- Must possess a high school diploma or GED at the time of the examination.
- Must be a member of the Massachusetts fire service. (See examination application section 3 for details.)
- **All candidates** who were appointed to the Massachusetts Fire service on or after January 1, 1990 shall furnish proof of certification to the level of Firefighter I by the Massachusetts Fire Training Council OR received reciprocal credit from either the National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications, Inc. OR the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress.

Examination Date: January 18, 2006

Application Deadline:  
January 4, 2006

Examination Fee: \$30.00

Location(s):  
DFS/MFA  
State Road  
Stow, MA

SAFETY OFFICER

Prerequisites:

- Must be at least 18 years of age at the time of examination.
- Must possess a high school diploma or GED at the time of the examination.
- Must be a member of the Massachusetts fire service. (See examination application section three for details.)
- **Fire officers** appointed to the officer rank of Lieutenant, Captain, or any other Chief Officer prior to January 1, 1995 and serving in that officer rank at the time of application must submit the "Fire Officer Prerequisite" form completed by the Chief of Department.

Examination Date: March 18, 2006

Application Deadline: March 4, 2006

Examination Fee: \$30.00

Location(s):  
Barnstable County Training Facility  
Mary Dunn Road  
Barnstable, MA

WRITTEN RETAKE  
EXAMINATION SCHEDULE

Examination Dates:

January 18, 2006 0900 Hours

February 8, 2006 0900 Hours

March 11, 2006 0800 Hours

April 5, 2006 0800 Hours

May 17, 2006 0800 Hours

June 7, 2006 0900 Hours

Location:  
All written retake examinations will be held at:  
DFS/MFA  
State Road  
Stow, MA

Notes:

1. **Inclement weather:** In the event of inclement weather please call our **Severe Weather Hotline (978) 567-3248 for cancellations.**
2. Please note that all applications must be received **two (2) weeks prior to the start of the course** by fax (978) 567-3229, mail or via on-line registration at [www.mass.gov/dfs/mfa](http://www.mass.gov/dfs/mfa). For further information please call (978) 567-3200.

DRIVING  
DIRECTIONS:

Directions: Massachusetts Department of Fire Services

From Route 128:

Take Route 20 West. Follow Route 20 to the intersection of Route 27 in Wayland. Turn right onto 27 and bear left at first fork (27 North). Follow until Route 27 makes a right toward Maynard. Do not turn right. Continue straight for approximately three miles and DFS will be on your right.

From Route 495 North:

Take Exit 25A toward Hudson. At the second traffic light, take a left onto Route 85. Take a right onto Broad Street (first street on right next to Tuck's GMC Trucks.) At the second set of traffic lights, take a right onto Route 62. About 4.5 miles from here, where Route 62 splits left at the Mobil Station, stay straight. DFS will be on your left.

From Route 495 South:

Take Route 62 East (Exit 26) into Hudson Center. Continue half way around the rotary and stay on Route 62 East. About 5 miles from here, where Route 62 splits left at the Mobil Station, stay straight. The Academy will be on your left.

Directions: Springfield Fire Training Center

Take Exit 6 off of the Massachusetts Turnpike. Turn left onto Route 291 West. Follow to Exit 5, East Springfield. At the end of the ramp, turn left onto Page Boulevard. Follow Page Boulevard to the first traffic light and turn left onto Cadwell Drive. Follow to the end and turn left. Follow road to the traffic lights (approximately 50 yards.) Go straight across the intersection onto Grochmal Avenue. Follow to the training center which will be on your left.

Directions: Barnstable County Fire Training Facility

Coming from off Cape:

Take Rt. 495 to Rt. 25, or Rt. 195 to Rt. 25, or Rt. 3 to Rt. 6 (Mid-Cape Highway)

Coming from on Cape:

Take Rt. 6 (Mid-Cape Highway)

Once on Rt. 6, take Exit #6. At the bottom of the ramp, turn onto Rt. 132 toward Hyannis. Go to the fourth set of lights and turn left onto Independence Dr. (Sam Diego's on corner). Go to the end of the road and turn right onto Mary Dunn Rd. The first road on the right is South Flint Rock Rd.; that is the driveway.

Please note that **all applications** must be received **two (2) weeks prior** to the start of the course by fax, mail or via on-line registration at [www.mass.gov/dfs/mfa](http://www.mass.gov/dfs/mfa). For further information please call 978.567.3200.

# Severe Weather Cancellations Training at Headquarters

Classes scheduled to be conducted at the T. Dustin Alward Massachusetts Firefighting Academy in Stow are cancelled if classes at Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High are cancelled due to severe weather. During periods when Lincoln-Sudbury is not in session, (week-ends, school vacations etc.) cancellation notification is the same as for off-site classes. If Lincoln-Sudbury has a delayed opening due to severe weather, classes at the Fire Academy headquarters will begin at the scheduled time (no delay).

### OFF-SITE TRAINING:

Classes scheduled to be conducted at other training sites will be cancelled based on local conditions.

Cancellation announcements will be carried on the following radio and television stations:

WBEC.....	AM 1420 .....	Pittsfield
WBEC.....	FM 105.5.....	Pittsfield
WHYN.....	AM 560 .....	Springfield
WHYN.....	FM 93.1.....	Springfield
WHDH .....	AM 850 .....	Boston
WRKO .....	AM 680 .....	Boston
WCVB.....	Channel 5 .....	Boston
WHDH-TV.....	Channel 7 .....	Boston

### SEVERE WEATHER CANCELLATION PHONE LINE:

The Academy has established a severe weather cancellation phone line.  
In case of severe weather call (978) 567-3248.

If the Academy must cancel a program for any other reason, every attempt will be made to notify all **PRE-REGISTERED** students.



# Senior Fire Officer Forum Schedule

This year the Department of Fire Services is offering a new educational series to develop leadership and command skills in the fire service. The Senior Fire Officers Forum includes seven seminars for senior fire officials presented by nationally know experts starting December 2005 and running through June 2006.

Location: The Devens Common Center/Springhill Suites Marriott, 31 Andrews Parkway, Devens, Massachusetts 01434. More information on this location, including directions may be found at [www.DevensCommon-Center.com](http://www.DevensCommon-Center.com).

Time: All of the forums will be held from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

<p><b>December 8, 2005</b>  <b>Tactics and Command</b>  <b>Course Number: 669</b>                      by FDNY Battalion Chief John Salka, a Training Achievement Award winner at FDIC for his Get Out Alive program. This 23-year FDNY veteran is widely known lecturer and author as well as an expert on firefighter survival and tactics and command.</p>	<p><b>April 13, 2006</b>  <b>Fire Service Liability and How to Avoid It</b>  <b>Course Number: 673</b>                      by Neil Rossman, Esq., a Boston based attorney. Mr. Rossman has gained national attention by representing families of firefighters who have been killed in apparatus accidents. His presentation can help fire department avoid similar disasters.</p>
<p><b>January 12, 2006</b>  <b>Emergency Vehicle Operation and Apparatus Design</b>  <b>Course Number: 670</b>                      by Lt. Mike Wilbur, a 24-year FDNY veteran, is nationally recognized in the fields of emergency vehicle operations, apparatus placement and purchasing. Lt. Wilbur has also served on the FDNY Apparatus Purchasing Committee.</p>	<p><b>May 11, 2006</b>  <b>Emergency Service Leadership</b>  <b>Course Number: 674</b>                      by Chief Richard Gasaway. High energy and humor punctuate Chief Gasaway's dynamic presentation on Emergency Service Leadership. Learn the leadership skills of the future from a 27- year fire service veteran who lectures on fire service leadership throughout the United States and Canada.</p>
<p><b>February 9, 2006</b>  <b>Unforgettable Customer Service</b>  <b>Course Number: 671</b>                      by Stefan Sanders, a nationally known management consultant. Mr. Sanders is a highly motivated and dynamic speaker who delivers an "unforgettable" program. This presentation is a must for all officers on the way up.</p>	<p><b>June 8, 2006</b>  <b>Course Number: 675</b>                      speaker and topic to be determined.</p>
<p><b>March 9, 2006</b>  <b>Emergency Trends in Leadership Development</b>  <b>Course Number: 672</b>                      by Chief Dennis Compton, a nationally known speaker and author of "When in Doubt, Lead" and "Mental Aspects of Performance for Firefighters and Fire Officers." Chief Compton's presentation is not to be missed by any chief or future chief officer.</p>	



# How to Install and Use Ad Aware for Spyware Removal

by Steve Pheeny

If your computer has slowed down quite a bit, crashes a lot more than it used to, and seems to put out a constant stream of pop-ups and ads, chances are good that your computer is infected with "spyware." Spyware is a term for files and programs that get put on your computer without your knowledge or consent. Spyware not only slows down your system, it can also create a security risk. Some spyware programs send personal information to third parties. Ad-Aware is a free product which finds and removes spyware. This article will show you everything you need to know to successfully install and use Ad-Aware.

## Downloading Ad-Aware

1. In your internet browser, go to <http://www.lavasoft.com/>
2. When the page loads, scroll down a bit and click on the name of the site you want to download from. They are all good sites, but I recommend choosing Download.com for ease of use.
3. When the Download.com page loads, click on the green "Download Now" button or the link next to it.
4. After you click, a new page will load which informs you that your download will begin soon. In a few moments, a dialog box should appear on your screen:
5. Click the "Open" button. A progress bar should appear which tells you how long the download will take. When the download completes, the dialog box will disappear from the screen automatically.

## Installing Ad-Aware

1. Close any other programs you have running (except your web browser), and click "Next."
2. Review the license agreement and click "Next." If you've installed Ad-Aware before, proceed to step 3. If you've never installed Ad-Aware before, skip ahead to step 5.
3. If you have installed Ad-Aware before, you need to uninstall the previous version. Happily, this is simple. "Yes, uninstall previous version of Ad-Aware"

should be automatically selected. If it isn't, select it and click "Next".

4. Uninstall successful! Click "Next".
5. If you have never installed Ad-Aware before, it lets you select the location on your hard drive where you want to install the program. Unless you are an intermediate or advanced user, it is strongly recommended to click "Next" and let it install to the default folder.
6. Leave the "Anyone who uses this computer" option selected and click "Next."
7. Click "Next" to begin the installation.
8. Installation is finished! Uncheck all of the checkboxes you see and click "Finish."

## Updating Ad-Aware

Now it's time to fire the program up and take it for a test drive. The first thing you need to do is look at your desktop. A new icon will be there, and it will look like this:



1. Double-click the icon to start the program.
2. Before a scan, you should always update the program. Remember, spyware and virus programs do not provide good protection unless they are updated regularly. To begin updating, click the icon that looks like a globe with a ring around it.
3. Click "Connect" to connect to the Lavasoft server.
4. Click OK to get the update.
5. How long the update will take depends on your internet connection speed.
6. Your Ad-Aware program is now updated. Click on "Finish" to continue.

## Running Ad-Aware

You should now see the full Ad-Aware screen.

1. Click "Scan Now."
2. Select "Use custom scanning options" and then click the

"Customize" link.

3. Click on each of the red X marks to change them to green checks. Please note that no matter how many times you click on the second and third items from the top, they will remain gray X marks. Only click on red X marks, and click them all until they are replaced by green checks, then click "Proceed."
4. Select "Use custom scanning options" and click "Next." (Please note that it doesn't matter whether there is a green check or a red X next to "Search for negligible risk entries.") The scan will begin, and the next screen that appears will feature lots of file names and other gibberish that flashes by very quickly. You can safely ignore all of this.
5. Unless your computer is clean, Ad-Aware will find all kinds of bugbears and trolls lurking on the hard drive. As the scanner finds each problem, the count of "critical objects" will go up.
6. Depending on the speed of your computer and the number of files and programs on your hard drive, the scan can take quite a while (30-60 minutes, sometimes more).
7. This lets you know how many problems were found. Click "Next."
8. This is the nasty stuff that we want to get rid of. To do that, right-click (click with the right mouse button) on any of the listings. It doesn't matter which listing you right-click on.
9. Click on "Select all objects." This places a checkmark next to all of the spyware files found by Ad-Aware.
10. Click "Next."
11. Click "OK" to get rid of the spyware once and for all. A box will appear that says "Quarantining selection," followed by a box which says "Deleting selection." Both of these boxes will disappear on their own. You don't need to click anything else. After the "Quarantining" and "Deleting" boxes disappear, you will see the full Ad-Aware screen

again. You can now close the program, you are finished!

## Tips

The purpose of most spyware programs is to show you ads and/or send information about you to advertisers. Most often, the spyware will inform the advertiser about all of the websites you are visiting. Some spyware programs use this information to show you targeted ads. Spyware can be installed on your computer just by surfing the web. Websites place spyware on your system because advertisers pay them to do so. Spyware is almost everywhere.

When too much spyware is loaded on your computer, it eats up your system resources and you notice a drastic slowdown. You may also notice tons of pop-ups that seem impossible to stop. In addition, your web browser may take you to the wrong sites, and after a while, it might quit working altogether. In fact, if you use Internet Explorer and you don't have any spyware removal tools, chances are your computer is infected by hundreds of problem-causing objects.

Ad-Aware is one of the best spyware removal programs available. It is a free product, but don't let the price fool you. For most users, Ad-Aware will kill spyware as effectively as anything else on the market. This article shows you how to install and use Ad-Aware in order to wipe out spyware and keep your system running at its best.

Please note that if you use Internet Explorer as your internet browser, you should update and run Ad-Aware at least once a week. If you forget what to do, you can always refer to this page for a refresher course. ♦





# New Internet-Based Program for Emergency Vehicle Safe Operations

October 11, 2005

The Department of Homeland Security's United States Fire Administration (USFA) and the National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) announced today the **Emergency Vehicle Safe Operations for Volunteer and Small Combination Emergency Service Organizations** is now available on-line. This innovative, web-based educational program includes an emergency vehicle safety best practices self-assessment, standard operating guideline examples, and behavioral motivation techniques to enhance emergency vehicle safety. As crashes from privately-owned vehicles are the leading cause of volunteer firefighter on-duty fatalities responding and returning to emergencies, this program also discusses critical safety issues of volunteer firefighter safety in them.

"Vehicle crashes represent the second leading cause of on-duty firefighter deaths in the volunteer fire service," said Charlie Dickinson, USFA Deputy Administrator. "This emergency vehicle safety educational program will also support the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation *Firefighter Life Safety Initiative* to reduce on-duty firefighter fatalities, and further

ensure that *Everyone Goes Home.*"

This program is a result of one of the partnerships with several leading fire service membership organizations as a follow on to the Emergency Vehicle Safety Initiative, a USFA project developed to reduce the number of firefighters killed while responding to or returning from an emergency scene.

"This emergency vehicle safety educational program will enable the volunteer fire service to easily and conveniently obtain comprehensive information in this area while at home or in the station," stated NVFC Chairman Philip Stittleberg. "Educational outreach is critical in reducing the number of volunteer firefighters we lose year after year."

Further information about this program, as well as other USFA efforts in emergency vehicle safety, may be found on the USFA Web site at <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/research/safety/vehicle.shtm>. It may also be accessed from the NVFC Web site at: <http://www.nvfc.org/evsp/index.html>. ♦

## Rotary Foundation

On September 29, 2005 State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan was presented with the Paul Harris Fellowship award at the Ayer-Harvard-Shirley Rotary Club's annual Firefighter Appreciation Dinner.

In 1917 the Rotary Foundation was born as an endowment fund through the efforts of then President Arch C. Klumph. Its initial contribution was \$26.50. In the year 2002-2003 \$55 million was contributed to the Foundation.

Through these donations humanitarian programs are funded to improve the quality of life, providing health care, clean water, food, education and other essential needs primarily in the developing world. Examples include Polio

Plus which seeks to eradicate the polio virus worldwide. Educational programs provide 1200 students the ability to study abroad each year. Other programs allow university teachers to teach in developing nations and provide exchange programs for business and professional people across the world.

In 1957 the Paul Harris Fellowship was established to help build this fund. A Paul Harris Fellow is a person who has contributed or recognized a person who has had funds contributed in their name in the amount of \$1000 to the Foundation. The award is to demonstrate someone's exceptional service. ♦

# Updated Technical Rescue Training Now Available

by Mark McCabe, Technical Rescue Coordinator

The purpose of the Mass. Firefighting Academy's (MFA) Technical Rescue Group is to provide a diverse range of technical rescue courses that will challenge students at all levels. At the end of the program, students will be competent and proficient in skills for rescuing people from precarious positions.

The Technical Rescue Group has worked hard in the past to update the MFA technical rescue program in order to meet current National Fire Protection Asso-



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Rescue Group is looking to redevelop some other programs, such as *Basic Water Rescue*, and to introduce *Trench*, and *Advanced Confined Space*.

The Technical Rescue Group is proactive in addressing the technical rescue needs of the fire service throughout Massachusetts and is committed to keeping these specialized courses on the cutting edge, providing the high-



Lincoln

level of knowledge, skills, and abilities needed for safe rescues. If you have any questions or want to host a technical rescue program, please contact Mark McCabe, Technical Rescue Coordinator at 978-567-3214. ♦

ciation (NFPA) standards. This includes the recent re-developing of the following courses: *Basic Rope Rescue*, *Surface Ice Rescue*, and *Basic Confined Space*, plus introducing *Advanced Rope Rescue*. Complete course listings and dates can be found in the MFA Course Schedule or online at [www.mass.gov/dfs/mfa](http://www.mass.gov/dfs/mfa). On the horizon, the Technical



Framingham



Boxborough



# President Signs DHS FY '06 Appropriations Bill

Reprinted from the IAFC website

On October 18, 2005, President Bush signed into law the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2006 (HR 2360), worth \$31.9 billion. The law decreases funding for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) program, increases funding for the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Act, and provides a first-ever direct appropriation to the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA). The law also implements Homeland Security Secretary Chertoff's "second stage review," which would move a number of department functions, including the USFA, into a new Preparedness Directorate.

"While I am disappointed by the cut in AFG funds, I congratulate and thank Congress and the president for approving many changes that would benefit America's fire service," said International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) President Chief Bill Killen. "I am delighted that the U.S. Fire Administration now has its own line item. As the fire service's main voice in the federal government, the USFA deserves its own funding."

## **The FIRE Act and SAFER**

Full funding for the AFG program (also known as the "FIRE Act") and the SAFER Act were two of the IAFC's top priorities. The FIRE Act will receive \$545 million in FY 2006, which is a decrease from the FY 2005 appropriation of \$650 million. SAFER will receive \$110 million, which is an increase from the FY 2005 appropriation of \$65 million. Since this is an annual appropriation, Congress will vote to fund this program again next year for FY 2007.

A positive outcome for the FIRE Act in this law is direction from Congress to make sure this grant program is used for all-hazards - rather than terrorism preparedness. Congress also directs DHS to maintain a number of eligible categories that the president had sought to eliminate. Those categories include wellness and fitness programs, emergency medical services (EMS), fire prevention programs, public education programs and modifications

of facilities for the health and safety of personnel.

## **DHS Reorganization**

The law also moves the USFA into the new Preparedness Directorate that Secretary Chertoff intends to create as part of his "second stage review." This review was an in-depth look at DHS from top to bottom to determine whether the department could be organized more efficiently. In appropriating money for a Preparedness Directorate, this law allows Sec. Chertoff to move forward with his plans.

The new directorate will house infrastructure and information security programs; USFA; the Office of State and Local Government Coordination and Preparedness, which distributes homeland security grant funds; and the Office of National Capital Region Coordination. The new directorate will not include the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), which will become a stand-alone response function within DHS. In its conference report on the law, Congress directs the Preparedness Directorate to work with FEMA "to continue an all-hazard approach for preparation, response and recovery to any type of disaster."

## **USFA**

At the request of the IAFC, Congress included a specific line item to fund the USFA. In Feb., the IAFC held a summit on Capitol Hill with 16 major fire service organizations in order to examine USFA funding and determine a course of action to address concerns that the agency and its training arm, the National Fire Academy, were losing funding. This summit and a subsequent meeting of 44 fire and emergency service organizations determined that it was necessary for USFA to have its own line item in the president's budget and appropriations bills to clarify USFA's funding levels.

Senator Paul Sarbanes (D-MD), a co-chair of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus, joined with eight other senators to introduce a successful amendment to provide the USFA with a line

item of \$52.6 million. Congress ultimately approved \$44.9 million, of which more than \$4.5 million is for the Noble Training Center. This funding level includes all of USFA's activities except for the Emergency Management Institute (EMI). Under Secretary Chertoff's "second stage review," USFA will move to the new Preparedness Directorate, while EMI will remain under the jurisdiction of FEMA.

Having a line item elevates the status of the USFA within the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) as a function that deserves individual attention and consideration.

## **NIMS**

Another accomplishment for the fire service in this law is an appropriation of \$22 million for the National Incident Management System (NIMS) Integration Center (the NIC). The NIC is responsible for making sure that every party responding to a small- or large-scale incident - from first responders to government leaders - understands a single incident management system. The response to Hurricane Katrina made clear that this nation is nowhere near being ready to implement the NIMS, and that the NIC must take more aggressive steps to train government officials at all levels in this system - and hold them accountable to it. Increased funding will allow the NIC to expand its outreach programs.

## **Interoperable Communications**

The Senate committee report would have required all grant dollars for interoperable communications to be used on Project 25 (P25) compliant equipment. That report language contradicted existing grant guidance developed by SAFECOM and the public safety community that would mandate the purchase of P25 equipment but allow departments to purchase other equipment if there are "compelling reasons." The IAFC argued that this exception should stand, since a small volunteer fire department should be allowed to receive a federal grant to buy radios that cost \$500 instead of \$3,500. Congress agreed, and allowed the excep-

tion to remain in the law.

In addition, Congress appropriated \$26.5 million for the Office of Interoperability and Compatibility, including \$5 million for the expanded deployment of Rapid-Com.

## **Homeland Security Grant Formula**

Finally, the bill changes the way that DHS will award homeland security grants. The change is only for FY 2006; however, it may set a precedent for future years.

For the past two years, the House Homeland Security Committee and the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee have sought to make these grants more risk-based. However, the two committees could not agree on an approach. This law meets them in the middle. It requires DHS to distribute \$950 million in state formula grants, including the State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP) grants, so that each state receives at least 0.75 percent of the total. DHS will distribute the rest according to the ratio of each state's population to the total national population. The law also provides \$765 million in discretionary grants for high-threat, high-density urban areas (commonly referred to as the Urban Areas Security Initiative - or UASI - cities). DHS will distribute all of that money based on risk.

House Homeland Security staff estimate that under this new formula, DHS will allocate 21.6 percent of the funding based on the state minimums and 78.4 percent based on risk. Each state will receive a minimum of just over \$7 million, compared with more than \$11 million in FY 2005.

The IAFC has not taken a position on any change in the federal homeland security funding formula.

## **Other Changes**

Other areas of interest in this law include:

- **National Preparedness Goal:** The law requires DHS to issue the final National Prepared-

*Continued on Page 30*



- ness Goal by Dec. 31, 2005.

  - **Catastrophic Planning:** The law directs the Secretary of DHS to report on the status of catastrophic planning, including mass evacuation planning in all 50 states and the 75 largest urban areas, by Feb. 10, 2006.
  - **Rapid Decontamination Preparedness:** The law directs ODP, in consultation with the DHS Science and Technology
- Directorate, the Environmental Protection Agency and other relevant federal agencies, to plan to establish a regionally based, pre-positioned rapid response capability for the decontamination of biological and chemical agents.

  - **Quadrennial Review:** The law requires DHS to conduct a Quadrennial Homeland Security Review similar to the quadrennial reviews conducted by
- the Department of Defense. The first review must be completed by Sept. 30, 2008.

  - **EMS:** Congress expressed concern that not enough first responder grant funding reaches EMS providers. Congress directs the DHS Office for Domestic Preparedness, which awards grants, “to require state and local governments to include EMS representatives in planning commit-
- tees as an equal partner and to facilitate a nationwide EMS needs assessment.” Congress also directs ODP to evaluate how much money goes to EMS providers and to require an explanation from any state that provides less than 10 percent of its grant funding to EMS providers.

Below is a chart of select appropriations for Fiscal Year 2006:

Program	FY 2006 Appropriation	FY 2005 Appropriation
Commercial Equipment Direct Assistance Program.....	\$50 million .....	\$50 million
Emergency Management Performance Grants.....	\$185 million .....	\$180 million
FIRE Act .....	\$545 million .....	\$650 million
Metropolitan Medical Response System .....	\$30 million .....	\$30 million
National Domestic Preparedness Consortium .....	\$145 million .....	\$135 million
National Exercise Program.....	\$52 million .....	\$52 million
NIMS Integration Center.....	\$22 million .....	\$15 million
Office of Interoperability and Compatibility.....	\$26.5 million .....	\$21 million
Rural Domestic Preparedness Consortium .....	\$10 million .....	\$5 million
SAFER Act .....	\$110 million .....	\$65 million
State Homeland Security Grant Program.....	\$2.105 billion .....	\$2.7 billion
	(separated into formula-based and discretionary grants)	(including \$885 million for high-threat, high-density urban areas)
*Formula-Based Grants		
(SHSGP and LTP) .....	\$950 million .....	N/A
*Discretionary Grants .....	\$1.155 billion .....	N/A
	(including \$765 million for high-threat, high-density urban areas)	
Urban Search and Rescue .....	\$20 million .....	\$30 million ♦

DFS Employees Recognized for Years of Service

On Oct. 18, 2005, the Department of Fire Services (DFS) recognized five DFS employees for their outstanding performances and other employees for their years of service with the agency. Fire Marshal Stephen Coan and Deputy Marshal Tom Leonard presented Outstanding Performance awards to: Elizabeth Hill, Fiscal Services; JoAnne Oliver, Hazardous Materials Division; Mary Shutts, MFA and Gerald McNamara, MFA. These employees were nominated and selected by their colleagues to receive recognition for their continual dedication to the agency.

Deputy General Counsel Peter Senopoulos was selected for a

statewide award, the Eugene H. Rooney Jr. Award, for his tireless work for the training of local officials on the new regulations under the Massachusetts Fire Safety Act/Chapter 304. All of these DFS employees were also recognized for their outstanding work performance at a special luncheon sponsored by the Commonwealth Human Resources Division on Oct. 28 at the Sheraton in Boston. Lt. Gov. Kerry Healey presented awards at this ceremony.

Marshal Coan and Deputy Marshal Leonard presented year’s of service pins to the following DFS staff members:

**For 30 Years:** Jim Devoll, Joe Gervais, Rick Goddard,

**For 25 Years:** Stan Clement, David Curran, Dean Melanson, Sue Peltier

**For 20 Years:** Lt. Kevin McMahon, Bob Rand, Barbara Steele

**For 15 Years:** Tom Bogart, Rich Cerullo, Brian Duggan, Rich Hartman, Chuck Lambert, Fred LeBlanc, Tom Madigan, Tom Pilibosian, Bob Zalewski

**For 10 Years:** Sheri Auclair, Kent Campbell, Jim Klich, Bob Ljunggren, Tony Marfongelli, Kevin McDermott, Bob O’Connell, Kathryn Olyniec,

**For 5 Years:** Ron Belida, Peter Bowman, Tr. Michael Cook, David DeMarco, Andy Dufresne, Tr. Scott Fahey, Steve Fournier,

Mike Gelinas, Larry Hodgdon, Barry Hyvarinen, John Kennedy, Bob Kirkpatrick, John McLean, Bob Mignard, Gregg Normandin, Steve Oberg, Meridyth Reith, Brian Savage, Sean White. ♦

# Local Fire Department Receives Grant from DHS

Sixty-six Massachusetts fire departments have received grants, totaling \$8,993,584, from the 2005 Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Program administered by the U.S. Department of Homeland

Security. Nationwide for FY ‘05, the AFG program is providing up to \$650 million in awards to local fire departments throughout the United States.

The Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program assists local

fire departments to purchase firefighting equipment, fund firefighter health and safety programs, enhance emergency medical services programs, and conduct fire education and prevention programs throughout the United States.

For more information on the AFG Program and on the individual fire department awards, visit <http://www.firegrantsupport.com/>, or contact the Grants Program Office at 1-866-274-0960. For more information on USFA, please visit <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/>

Abington Fire Department	Operations and Safety	\$26,600.00
Acushnet Fire / Rescue	Operations and Safety	\$90,583.00
Amherst Fire Department	Operations and Safety	\$182,714.00
Athol Fire Department	Operations and Safety	\$18,103.00
Bellingham Fire Department	Operations and Safety	\$41,354.00
Berkley Fire & Rescue Department	Operations and Safety	\$50,008.00
Bondsville Fire Department	Operations and Safety	\$46,436.00
Bourne Fire Department	Operations and Safety	\$50,647.00
Boxborough Fire Department	Operations and Safety	\$76,300.00
Boxford Fire Department	Operations and Safety	\$64,220.00
Boylston Fire Department	Operations and Safety	\$45,670.00
Brewster Fire Department	Vehicle Acquisition	\$570,000.00
Brockton Fire Department	Operations and Safety	\$124,197.00
Buckland Fire District	Vehicle Acquisition	\$232,750.00
Carlisle Fire Department	Operations and Safety	\$90,250.00
Chesterfield Fire Department	Vehicle Acquisition	\$237,500.00
Chicopee Fire Department	Operations and Safety	\$200,000.00
Concord Fire Department	Operations and Safety	\$38,000.00
Cummington Fire Department	Operations and Safety	\$32,340.00
Danvers Fire Department	Operations and Safety	\$75,600.00
Dartmouth Fire District 2	Operations and Safety	\$31,635.00
Douglas Fire Department	Vehicle Acquisition	\$475,000.00
Duxbury Fire Department	Operations and Safety	\$167,044.00
East Longmeadow Fire Department	Operations and Safety	\$106,320.00
Gill Fire Department	Operations and Safety	\$52,918.00
Granville Fire Department	Operations and Safety	\$64,030.00
Greenfield Fire Department	Operations and Safety	\$157,391.00
Groton Fire Department	Operations and Safety	\$60,325.00
Hatfield Fire Department	Operations and Safety	\$12,147.00
Holliston Fire Department	Operations and Safety	\$169,128.00
Hopkinton Fire Department	Operations and Safety	\$38,475.00
Hyannis Fire Department	Operations and Safety	\$107,307.00
Ipswich Fire Department	Vehicle Acquisition	\$128,250.00
Lakeville Fire Department	Operations and Safety	\$35,530.00
Lancaster Fire Department	Operations and Safety	\$94,402.00
Leominster Fire Department	Operations and Safety	\$194,819.00
Lexington Fire Department	Operations and Safety	\$220,473.00
Lincoln Fire Department	Operations and Safety	\$102,941.00
Maynard Fire Department	Operations and Safety	\$97,618.00
Medway Fire Department	Operations and Safety	\$77,140.00
Milton Fire Department	Operations and Safety	\$97,550.00
Monson Fire Department	Operations and Safety	\$99,750.00
Nahant Fire Department	Operations and Safety	\$42,560.00
Nantucket Fire & Rescue	Operations and Safety	\$356,117.00
Natick Fire Department	Operations and Safety	\$123,840.00
Newburyport Fire Department	Vehicle Acquisition	\$109,250.00
Northborough Fire Department	Operations and Safety	\$93,366.00
Northbridge Fire Department	Operations and Safety	\$209,456.00
Orange Fire Department	Vehicle Acquisition	\$617,500.00
Rochester Fire Department	Operations and Safety	\$76,000.00
Somerset Fire Department	Operations and Safety	\$118,853.00
Somerville Fire Department	Operations and Safety	\$227,660.00
Templeton Fire Department	Operations and Safety	\$121,491.00
Tewksbury Fire Department	Operations and Safety	\$55,671.00
Spencer Fire Department	Operations and Safety	\$66,975.00
Waltham Fire Department	Operations and Safety	\$200,040.00
Ware Fire Department	Operations and Safety	\$86,592.00
Wareham Fire Department	Operations and Safety	\$49,896.00
Wayland Fire Department	Operations and Safety	\$58,102.00
Wenham Fire Department	Vehicle Acquisition	\$75,363.00
West Boylston Fire Department	Operations and Safety	\$59,707.00
West Springfield Fire Department	Vehicle Acquisition	\$675,000.00
Westfield Fire Department	Operations and Safety	\$76,680.00
Westford Fire Department	Operations and Safety	\$32,400.00
Westminster Fire Department	Operations and Safety	\$22,800.00
Westport Fire Department	Vehicle Acquisition	\$554,800.00

Modify Facilities (\$28,000)
Personal Protective Equipment (\$95,350)
Personal Protective Equipment (\$203,015)
Personal Protective Equipment (\$19,055)
Equipment (\$43,530)
Equipment (\$49,639)
Personal Protective Equipment (\$48,880)
Wellness and Fitness Programs (\$53,312)
Equipment (\$16,685); Personal Protective Equipment (\$63,630)
Modify Facilities (\$67,600)
Equipment (\$47,173); Training (\$900)
Vehicle Acquisition (\$600,000)
Modify Facilities (\$155,246)
Vehicle Acquisition (\$245,000)
Modify Facilities (\$95,000)
Vehicle Acquisition (\$250,000)
Personal Protective Equipment (\$250,000)
Equipment (\$40,000)
Equipment (\$34,042)
Equipment (\$30,000); Personal Protective Equipment (\$54,000)
Modify Facilities (\$33,300)
Vehicle Acquisition (\$500,000)
Equipment (\$7,165); Modify Facilities (\$65,400);
Personal Protective Equipment (\$103,270)
Personal Protective Equipment (\$111,915)
Equipment (\$55,703)
Personal Protective Equipment (\$67,400)
Personal Protective Equipment (\$165,674)
Equipment (\$63,500)
Training (\$12,786)
Personal Protective Equipment (\$178,029)
Personal Protective Equipment (\$40,500)
Equipment (\$40,000); Personal Protective Equipment (\$56,240);
Training (\$16,715)
Vehicle Acquisition (\$135,000)
Personal Protective Equipment (\$37,400)
Equipment (\$99,371)
Equipment (\$206,465)
Equipment (\$244,970)
Equipment (\$5,272); Personal Protective Equipment (\$103,087)
Equipment (\$800); Personal Protective Equipment (\$101,955)
Modify Facilities (\$81,200)
Equipment (\$39,564); Personal Protective Equipment (\$68,824)
Personal Protective Equipment (\$105,000)
Personal Protective Equipment (\$44,800)
Equipment (\$45,700); Personal Protective Equipment (\$163,900);
Training (\$155,000); Wellness and Fitness Programs (\$10,260)
Personal Protective Equipment (\$137,600)
Vehicle Acquisition (\$115,000)
Personal Protective Equipment (\$98,280)
Personal Protective Equipment (\$220,479)
Vehicle Acquisition (\$650,000)
Personal Protective Equipment (\$80,000)
Equipment (\$10,000); Modify Facilities (\$73,688);
Personal Protective Equipment (\$41,420)
Personal Protective Equipment (\$166,800);
Wellness and Fitness Programs (\$117,775)
Equipment (\$47,905); Training (\$79,980)
Equipment (\$7,857); Personal Protective Equipment (\$54,000)
Equipment (\$50,500); Personal Protective Equipment (\$20,000)
Personal Protective Equipment (\$250,050)
Equipment (\$7,000); Personal Protective Equipment (\$84,150)
Personal Protective Equipment (\$55,440)
Equipment (\$61,160)
Vehicle Acquisition (\$76,829)
Modify Facilities (\$46,900); Personal Protective Equipment (\$15,950)
Vehicle Acquisition (\$750,000)
Personal Protective Equipment (\$85,200)
Equipment (\$36,000)
Personal Protective Equipment (\$24,000)
Vehicle Acquisition (\$584,000) ♦



MFIRS Coding Tips for Heating Fires

Fall is here and winter is close behind. Citizens will be turning on the heat so expect heating related incidents to increase. Also with the dramatic rise in the cost of home heating oil and natural gas, we expect more people to turn to alternate heating sources like fireplaces, wood stoves and space heaters. And with the increased use comes an increase in fire risk. Here are a few coding tips:

Fuel Burner/Boiler Malfunction

Incident Type: Type = 116 – Fuel Burner/Boiler Malfunction, Fire Confined

Basic Module only if fire is confined.

Chimney or Flue Fire

Incident Type = 114 – Chimney or Flue Fire, Contained to Chimney or Flue.

Basic Module only if fire is confined.

Unconfined Heating Structure Fires

Basic Module, Fire Module and Structure Fire Module

Incident Type: 111-112 or 120-123 – structure fire, mobile home

Heat Source: 10-13 – heat from operating equipment or 43 – hot ember/ash

Type of Material First Ignited: 11-12, gas, 25, oil/kerosene, 34, creosote, 56, coal;

Equipment Involved in Ignition 120-152 – heating equipment

Equipment Power Source Required.

Equipment Portability Required: 1 – Portable or 2- Stationary.

Some examples are:

Portable electrical heater ignites bedding in a portable building –

Incident Type = 123, structure fire in mobile property: ex. construction trailer

Heat Source = 12 – radiated heat from equipment

Item First Ignited = 32 - bedding

Type of Material First Ignited = 71 - fabric

Equipment Involved in Ignition = 141 – space heater

Equipment Power Source = 12 - electric

Equipment Portability = 1 - portable.

Sparks from a wood burning stove ignite the carpeting in the room on fire –

Incident Type = 111 – building fire

Heat Source = 43 – hot ember/ash

Item First Ignited = 14 - rug

Type of Material First Ignited = 70 - fabric

Equipment Involved in Ignition = 123 - stove

Equipment Power Source = 41 - wood

Equipment Portability = 2 - stationary

Kerosene heater ignites an interior wall in a mobile home (being used as a fixed structure) –

Incident Type = 121 – mobile home

Heat Source = 12 –radiated heat from equipment

Item First Ignited = 15 – interior wall covering

Type of Material First Ignited = 65 – particle board

Equipment Involved in Ignition = 141 –space heater

Equipment Power Source = 33 - kerosene

Equipment Portability = 1 – portable.

Chimney fire in 1-Family

Incident Type = 111, building fire

Heat Source: 11, flame from operating equipment (fireplace)

Item First Ignited: 95, chimney film or residue

Type of Material First Ignited: 34, creosote

Equipment Involved: 126, brick

chimney

Equipment Power Source: 41, wood

Equipment Portability: 2, stationary

Carbon Monoxide (CO) Calls

You can and should use the ‘Detector’ field on the Basic Module to report whether a carbon monoxide detector alerted the occupants.

Use:

Incident Type = 424

Carbon monoxide incident. Excludes incidents w/ nothing found (736 or 746).

Incident Type = 746

Carbon monoxide detector activation due to malfunction.

Incident Type = 746

Carbon monoxide detector activation (no carbon monoxide detected by emergency personnel). Excludes carbon monoxide detector malfunction (736).

NFIRS Data Quality Topic of National Conference

– Every FD Rated

By Derryl Dion

I recently returned from a national conference on the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) at the National Fire Academy. The theme this year was data quality. In Massachusetts we have created our own data quality reports that represent the areas where we think fire departments need to pay closer attention in their MFIRS reports. However, at the national level, the U.S. Fire Administration is extremely concerned about use of zero or “other” codes that should only be used in the rare case that none of the other codes actually apply. Much time and effort by various fire service professionals

went into creating a list of codes that apply to almost any incident that a fire department responds to. We are aware that occasionally you may come across a situation that does not ‘fit’ into the current coding structure. In these very few circumstances use of a zero or ‘other’ code is acceptable. If you need to use one of these codes, a descriptive narrative should accompany the incident report. As with the zero/‘other’ codes, the use of the ‘undetermined’ is only to be used when all other options have been exhausted. It is normal at the creation of an incident report to have a number of fields coded as undetermined until the investigation is complete. However, when the investigation is complete, it is up to the officer making the report or the investigator to go back and update the incident report and then the department would send the updated report to DFS.

The USFA gave us reports that rated each fire department on several key data quality issues such as use (or abuse) of zero, blanks and undetermined codes. If fire chiefs are interested in seeing these reports they can contact the Fire Data Unit.

Quality Control & Feedback Reports

Overall, Massachusetts ranks well compared to other states on quality of our fire incident reports. In Massachusetts, in order to get the best quality data possible, the Fire Data Unit provides local fire chiefs with a series of “feedback” and quality control reports. The goal is to provide these reports twice a year in 2005 and then quarterly in 2006. Feedback and quality control reports based on the MFIRS data fire department submitted from January through July 2005 were recently sent to each local fire chief.

The statistical feedback reports include 2005 Incident Submission by Month and 2005 Fires & Arson Fires by Incident Type.

The quality control reports include:

- 2005 Incidents Returned to Department Corrected Forms Not Received by DFS;
- 2005 Incidents Missing the Arson/Juvenile Firesetters Module;
- 2005 Error Validation Report, 2005 Fires Under Investigation;
- 2005 Structure Fires With Incorrect or No Property Use;
- Electrical Fires with No Equipment Involved;
- 2005 Civilian Fire Casualty Modules with Missing Data for Any Fields;;
- 2005 Fire Service Casualty Modules with Missing Data for Any Fields;

**Arson and Juvenile-Set Modules Mandatory in Massachusetts**

In Massachusetts if a fire is considered to be arson (intentionally set), it is mandatory that the arson portion of the Arson/Juvenile Firesetter Module be completed. For those of you using MFIRS software, most companies do not make it a mandatory requirement but it still must be completed. If the person involved in starting the fire is under the age of 18, the age must be entered into section E3 (Human Factors) of the Fire Module and the Juvenile Firesetter section of the Arson Module must be completed.

**Definition of Arson**

In NFIRS, a fire is considered arson if the Cause of Ignition (Fire Module) = 1 (Intentional) and the Age of Person (Fire Module) is greater than 17 or if the field is blank; or if the Wildland Module is used (in place of the Fire Module), the Wildland Fire Cause = 7 (Incendiary) and the Age of the Person (Wildland Module) is greater than 17 or if the field is left blank.

**Equipment Involved Information**

The USFA, Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and the OSFM, all rely on this information for recalls, investigative information, and trend analysis. When the equipment information is available, please log the brand, model, serial number and year in your incident report. Any or all of this information is valuable at the state and national level, so please

take the extra time and try to get as much of it as you can.

**Estimated Dollar Loss**

When a fire occurs, something is usually damaged or destroyed. This field tracks the rough **estimation** of the loss in terms of the cost of replacing the damaged property and/or contents. This **estimation** includes the amount of dollar loss caused by fire, water, smoke and overhaul.

The key term here is **estimate**. Many departments are leaving this field blank or defaulting it to zero or none. In some cases such as a confined stovetop fire where the pot or pan is not damaged, this is the correct way to complete the report. However, in the majority of incidents such as a room and contents fire, an involved structure fire, a motor vehicle fire even if the structure or vehicle was abandoned, an estimate or rough guess must be made as to the monetary value of the property at the time of the fire. Even in the case of outside fires such as a mailbox fire or a cultivated vegetation or crop fire, damage exists and a guess at the replacement value is required. There is no minimum limit for this requirement.

Here are some guidelines for estimating dollar loss on Mass. Fire Incident Reports (MFIRS)

1. For structure fires, use the assessed value of the property or the insurance's replacement cost value of the damages.
2. For motor vehicle fires, use the Kelly Blue Book value. This information is available on-line at [www.kbb.com](http://www.kbb.com).
3. For anything else you may use the pricing of similar items, such as appliances, mailboxes or furniture; the owner's estimation; or your best logical guess to determine the dollar amount.
4. Remember it is only an estimate for statistical purposes used to illustrate the magnitude of fire problems in not only your community but also the Commonwealth and the nation. It has no bearing on the insurance adjustment (if any). ♦

**What is the True Cost of Firefighter Injuries?**

(From the Winter 2005 Fire.Gov newsletter published by the National Institute of Technology and FEMA)

What is the cost of a firefighter injury on the fire ground? What is the probability of a fire engine accident when responding to an emergency call? These perplexing questions and other related ones are of great interest to the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) researchers as they search for ways to reduce the occurrence and severity of firefighter work-related injuries. A new report, prepared by TriData Corporation, The Economic Consequences of Firefighter Injuries and Their Prevention, NIST-GCR-05-874, addresses the cost of these injuries not only to the firefighters themselves, but also to their departments, the insurance industry and society.

The TriData research team conducted the cost-of-injury research by reviewing the existing literature and looking at various models that could be used to calculate the many parts that make up financial losses from injuries. Other studies were reviewed, as well as injury-related data, and the team then incorporated their original research results, as well as existing research data, into the report.

The estimated cost of addressing firefighter injuries and of efforts to prevent them is \$2.8 to \$7.8 billion per year. The cost elements that comprised the two studies were based on workers compensation payments and other insured medical expenses, including long-term care, lost productivity, administrative costs of insurance, etc. The Tri-Data team applied a new approach to the analysis and looked at costs that typically have not been factored into firefighter injuries. Some of the labor costs reviewed were investigating injuries, plus the time required for data collection, report writing, and filing. The study estimated a number of these direct costs including medical payouts, legal fees, and investigations, and

these expenses were applied to the total number of injuries.

Another cost is that which relates to what employers of firefighters pay to provide insurance coverage, and for safety training, physical fitness program, and protective gear and equipment. These expenses relate to injury prevention and reduction of severity of injuries. The study incorporated a number of separate indirect costs including prevention, safety and survival training, physical fitness and wellness programs and applied these expenses to the total number of firefighters, not just the firefighters that were injured. A unique feature of this research

**“The estimated cost of addressing firefighter injuries and of efforts to prevent them is \$2.8 to \$7.8 billion per year.”**

project is the workers compensation information that was specific to the occupational codes for firefighters. The report goes on

to identify steps needed to reduce fire-fighter injuries.

Information requirements of new safety and loss control initiatives need to be supported. Better data and research on the severity of injuries to firefighters and the associated costs by level of severity are needed. The time it costs to investigate injuries and to document reports, and the amount of lost work because of injuries need to be documented.

A scientific study on the relationship between the number of firefighters per engine and the incidence of injuries would resolve a long-standing question concerning staffing and safety.

If you have additional questions after reading the report, contact Nelson Bryner, [nelson.bryner@nist.gov](mailto:nelson.bryner@nist.gov). To view other issues of the Fire.Gov newsletter, go to <http://www.fire.gov> ♦



# FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY EDUCATION

## State Fire Marshal Coan Hosts 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Fire and Life Safety Public Education Conference

### Local Fire Educators Recognized by State Fire Marshal in Awards Ceremony

State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan hosted the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Massachusetts Fire and Life Safety Public Education Conference at the Boxborough Holiday Inn, Route 111, Boxborough, Mass. Over 200 firefighter-educators, classroom teachers, school administrators and safety officers, EMTs, nurses, elder service workers, health educators and other injury prevention professionals attended this two day conference on September 28, 2005 and September 29, 2005.

Carolyn Clark-Smith, a National Fire Academy Instructor, delivered the keynote address at lunch on September 28.

Coan added, "This conference launches fire educators enthusiastically into Fire Prevention

Week in early October."

The conference offered core workshops for new fire and life safety educators, workshops on new ideas, programs and teaching techniques to keep all life safety educators current, and

emony on Thursday, September 29, 2005. There were sixteen nominations of 21 educators from Acushnet, Fall River, Fitchburg, Gloucester, Hanson, Lawrence, Leominster, Manchester, Marshfield, North Adams,

Norwood, Plymouth, Upton, Webster, Winchester and Yarmouth.

### Carolyn Smith-Clark Delivered Keynote Address

Carolyn Smith-Clark, a well-respected and motivational National Fire Academy Instructor,

delivered the keynote address *Fire Safety Education: What Matters?* on September 29, 2005.

workshops to continue to challenge and develop the skills of more experienced life safety educators.

The 2005 *Fire and Life Safety Educator of the Year Award* was given in a post-luncheon cer-

### Local Fire & Life Safety Educators Honored

The 2004 *Fire and Life Safety Educator of the Year Award* and Citations from the State Fire Marshal were awarded in a post-luncheon ceremony on September 28, 2004. Educators from the Becket, Carver, Devens, Easton, Fairhaven, Fitchburg, Groton, Hanover Hanson, Hopkinton, Lakeville, Leominster, Lowell, Ludlow, Lynn, Malden, Mansfield, Mattapoisett, Mendon, Merrimac, Middleborough, North Adams, Norwell, Norwood, Sandwich, Springfield, Sudbury, Wenham West Bridgewater, West Brookfield, Westfield, Winchester, and Yarmouth Fire Departments as well as teachers and administrators from the New Boston Pilot Middle School, the Galvin Middle School in Canton, the St. Pius V School in Lynn, Milford High School, Nantucket Elementary School, the Butterfield School in Orange, and the Fausey School in West Springfield. Members of the Norfolk Firewall Partnership, a countywide juvenile firesetting intervention program and of the Boston Society of Vulcans, a fraternal group of African American firefighters were honored. ♦



(Left to Right) FCAM V.P. Willette, S.F.M. Coan, Capt. Rick Tustin, Winchester Fire Chief Nash

## Safety Has No Shortcuts The Coalition for Kids in Danger 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference Held

The Coalition for Kids in Danger held its 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference for Kids in Danger, *Safety Has No Shortcuts*, on November 7 – 9 at the Sheraton Hotel in Framingham, MA. The conference, sponsored by the property & casualty insurance companies of Massachusetts, was an exceptional gathering of over 400 fire and police officials, juvenile justice professionals, human service and social workers, mental health clinicians, researchers, and community leaders. These professionals came from all over the United

States, Canada, the United Kingdom, and beyond to listen to international experts, exchange ideas, learn best practices, and network with colleagues. Although they represent many disciplines, they share a common goal: to reduce the incidence of fires and explosions caused by children.

This year's conference schedule included keynote speeches by best selling authors Michael Gurian (*The Minds of Boys*) and Brent Runyan (*The Burn Journals*); 7 full-day institutes; forty breakout sessions, five major case post-

mortems, four model program showcases, and three spotlight sessions highlighting new developments in research, resources, and program innovations. In addition to classes at all levels on both the public safety and clinical aspects of firesetting and bomb-making behavior in children and adolescents, the conference provided the following training: detecting deception using micro-expressions; the increasing role of computers in these crimes; clinical depression and mood disorders in adolescents; the

prevalence of trauma and role of resiliency in individuals and families, and strategies for engaging parents more meaningfully in the education and treatment of youth who engage in dangerous behavior.

The DFS staff was well-represented among the conference presenters with the following experts: Trooper Eric J. Gahagan; Trooper Paul Horgan; Sergeant Paul Zipper, and Code Compliance Officer Tricia Reagan. ♦

## Staffing Update

The Code Compliance & Enforcement Unit (CCEU) is back to a complement of 6 compliance officers. Last year saw the loss of long time compliance supervisor Wayne Delaney. Wayne accepted the position of assistant chief with the Lexington Fire Department. Compliance officer John Fleck also left last year to become the first full-time chief of the Lancaster Fire Department. We wish both of them success in their new positions.

DFS embarked on an extensive effort to fill the positions. Over eighty applications were received. Chief Brian Duggan of the Northampton Fire Department volunteered to review and rank the applicants. Seven applicants were selected for an initial interview. The initial interview panel was chaired by then FCAM President, and Fire Service Commission member Chief David LaFond of Holyoke. Four people were selected for second round interviews with a panel chaired by FCAM President

Steven Edwards of Orleans. As a result, of the process, Tricia Regan and Ken Burdick were hired. DFS wishes to thank Chiefs Duggan, LaFond, and Edwards for their assistance in this process.

Tricia Regan started in the CCEU on August 1. She has a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Northeastern University and

a masters degree in forensic science with a specialty in fire. She completed an internship with the Milford (CT) Fire Department.

Tricia previously worked for the City of Boston's tobacco control program as a compliance officer. Tricia is assigned to cover the southeastern portion of the state. She may be contacted at 978-567-3373

Ken Burdick came on board on August 8 from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst where he had been a Fire and Safety Officer. Ken was formerly a career firefighter in Greenfield, and is

a U.S. Navy veteran. Ken has been assigned to cover western Massachusetts. He takes over for Dave Beaudin who was promoted to compliance supervisor. Ken may be reached at 413-587-3181 extension 207. ♦

## Emergency Gas Code Regulation Requires CO Detectors

An emergency gas regulation became effective on July 29, 2005, and was amended on October 7, 2005, that requires the installation of carbon monoxide detectors under certain conditions in conjunction with the installation and use of certain gas appliances. This regulation is to be enforced by the local plumbing or gas inspector. Fire officials should work with local gas or plumbing officials when they have questions regarding carbon monoxide detector placement and installation. ♦

## Notification of Misuse of UL Mark

Northbrook, Ill., USA – August 24, 2005

Underwriters Laboratories Inc. is notifying regulatory authorities that "Protected Aboveground Tanks for Flammable and Combustible Liquids (EELU)" and "Below-Grade Vaults for Flammable Liquid Storage Tanks (EHOJ)" manufactured by EcoVault Inc. of 10615 Judicial Drive, Fairfax, VA or 2380 El Camino Dr., Turlock, CA have not been authorized to bear UL Listing Marks since May 2002. Any advertisement on their Web site or elsewhere referencing the UL Listing Mark is unauthorized.

For more information, contact UL's Regulatory Services Department by phone at 1-800-595-9844.

- For more information about UL, its Marks, and its services for EMC, quality registrations and product certifications for global markets, please access our web sites at <http://www.ul.com> and <http://www.ulc.ca> or contact your local sales representative. ♦

## Retrofit Sprinkler Law in Full Swing

A crucial component of the new sweeping Massachusetts revisions to the fire safety laws, (c.304 of the Acts of 2004), was the requirement that automatic sprinkler systems be installed in existing places of public assembly, or portions thereof, used as nightclubs, dance halls, discotheques, bars or for similar entertainment purposes. The new law, which included the retrofit of sprinklers (M.G.L. c. 148, s. 26G ½), was signed in August 2004, and was in response to the horrific Rhode Island nightclub fire which occurred on February 20, 2003, killing 100 people. The law requires that automatic sprinkler systems be installed in structures within three years of the effective date of the law, November 15, 2007. However, the law requires that plans and specifications for a required installation shall be submitted to the head of the fire department and the local building inspector within 18 months of the

effective date, May 15, 2006. (see Section 11, St. 2004, c.304).

In January 2005, the Department of Fire Services and the Department of Public Safety teamed up to present a series of informational seminars about the new law, including the enhanced sprinkler requirements. Over 1000 fire and building officials attended the lectures over a six-week period. Soon after the lecture series was completed, many local fire chiefs began issuing orders to install the required sprinklers.

As predicted, the Commonwealth's Automatic Sprinkler Appeals Board (ASAB), which has the statutory authority to hear sprinkler appeals from orders of fire chiefs under the new law, has seen a dramatic increase in activity. To date, the board has

received appeals from over 60 different municipalities throughout the Commonwealth. During this appellate process, the board has rendered several significant decisions, which have interpreted the law as applied to certain types of establishments. In one case, *ASAB CASE #05-23: 91 Manville Street, Leicester*, the board deter-

mined that a facility used for "organized private dining events" was not subject to the retrofit sprinkler requirements of M.G.L. c. 148, s.26G1/2. The Board established seven specific characteristics that need

to be present for such buildings not to be subject to the enhanced sprinkler requirements of the new law. The board also noted that the statute allows for "temporary use" of certain buildings as a nightclub, dance hall, discotheque or bar

or similar entertainment purpose without the need for sprinklers, if a permit is issued by the head of the fire department in consultation with the building inspector. The fire chief may set the terms and conditions of the permit to protect against fire and preserve public safety.

In another case, *ASAB # 05-18, 63 Webster Street, Fall River (M.G.L. c.148, 26G1/2)*, the appeal presented an establishment that featured characteristics of both a restaurant, which is specifically exempt from the law, and a bar. The board determined what particular building characteristics should be reviewed to decide if such "combination" establishments or portions thereof, are subject to the new sprinkler requirements of M.G.L. c. 148, s.26G1/2.

A complete copy of these cases and other ASAB information can be found at: [http://www.mass.gov/dfs/news\\_events/press/taskforce/sprinklerin3years.htm](http://www.mass.gov/dfs/news_events/press/taskforce/sprinklerin3years.htm) ♦





# LICENSING EXAMS

All licensing exams will be given at the Department of Fire Services, Stow campus, starting at 9 a.m. Arrangements may be made to take the scheduled exams on the same dates, at the same times at the western Massachusetts office of the Department of Fire Services, One Prince Street, Northampton.

## 2006 Exam Schedule

All exams begin promptly at 9:00 a.m.

You must be pre-registered for all license exams. Your completed application must be received by the deadline date. If for any reason it is not, you will not be allowed to sit for the exam. Please respect the deadline dates listed below.

A list of study materials for each examination and directions to our offices are listed on the web at [http://www.mass.gov/dfs/osfm/license\\_exams.htm](http://www.mass.gov/dfs/osfm/license_exams.htm)

Examination	Deadline Date	Examination Date	Location
Cannon	February 6 (Monday)	February 16 (Thursday)	DFS Stow Classroom 109
Fireworks	May 8 (Monday)	May 16 (Tuesday)	
Special Effects	August 7 (Monday)	August 16 (Wednesday)	
Blasting	November 6 (Monday)	November 16 (Thursday)	
Blasting R&D			
Fire Extinguishers	January 16 (Monday)	January 26 (Thursday)	DFS Stow Auditorium
	April 10 (Monday)	April 20 (Thursday)	
	July 17 (Monday)	July 26 (Wednesday)	
	October 9 (Monday)	October 19 (Thursday)	

## Licenses

The Office of the State Fire Marshal issues licenses to people and companies engaged in fireworks, blasting, explosives, cannon and mortar firing, special effects, special hazard systems and portable fire extinguishers. Information on applications and exam dates to obtain new licenses or to renew existing licenses may be obtained by calling (978) 567-3700. Examinations for licenses are held quarterly. Filing deadlines, exam locations, dates and times can be found online at: [http://www.mass.gov/dfs/osfm/license\\_exams.htm](http://www.mass.gov/dfs/osfm/license_exams.htm). ♦

## Status Report of Compliance/Enforcement Actions

The following is a status report of recent compliance and enforcement actions taken by the Office of the State Fire Marshal against individuals or companies for violations of MGL Chap. 148 and 527 CMR. The status of the action is provided and notation is made regarding the effective date of the

action. While other actions may be pending, only those individuals or companies who have had administrative hearings with decisions rendered will be documented in this space.

Should there be any question regarding the status of any license

or certificate please call the Office of the State Fire Marshal at any time for verification. The Code Compliance and Enforcement Unit or Technical Services can be reached at either (978) 567-3300 or in western Mass. (413) 587-3181. ♦

### Compliance/Enforcement Actions By The Department of Fire Services

First Name	Last Name	Company	Action Taken	Terms	Ends
<b>Blasting Certificate of Competency</b>					
Charles D.	Despetopulos		Suspension	5 year susp. w/ 3 years to serve	3/26/06
Joel S.	Gunn		Suspension	1 year susp. w/ 6 months to serve	4/26/06
Wayne E.	Martin		Suspension	2 year susp. w/ 1 year to serve	8/3/06
<b>Explosives User's Certificate</b>					
NA					
<b>Fireworks Certificate of Competency</b>					
NA					
<b>Fireworks User's Certificate</b>					
NA					
<b>Fire Equipment Certificate of Competency</b>					
Robert J.	Smith		Revoked		Permanent
James P.	Tecce		Suspension	Must re-exam	2/24/06
Paul F.	Witkus		Suspension	Must re-exam	9/28/06